

Bids to begin for LT wellness center

BY KEVIN MCCONLOGUE PRESS EXAMINER Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Lackawanna Trail School District is moving ahead with a new student wellness center.

At a board meeting Monday night, business manager Keith Glynn announced the district will begin accepting bids for the construction of the center, which will be on the campus of the high school, on Friday, March 18.

The board also approved two measures dealing with the center: a service agreement with Ashburn Advisors LLC for the execution of the business plan for the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program grant for $34,000; and an assigned fund balance of $105,320 to be used for architecture and engineering services.

“Things are moving along nicely so far,” Glynn said. “If all goes as planned, we expect construction of the building to begin in either late spring or early summer.”

As the project moves further along, the board has plans to hold a public meeting about progress of the project and to keep the public informed about the process and any new steps that might come up along the way.

“We know the public is really excited about this,” board president Kevin Mulhern said. “We are too. We think this is going to be awesome for future generations of Trail students. The board wants to keep the public involved in this process as much as possible.”

Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas announced that because of a couple of recent snow days, the last day of school for students will now be Friday, May 27. Graduation will take place that day as well. If any more inclement weather were to come through the area, the district will use a flexible instructional day where students will learn virtually.

“We don’t want students to lose any of their well earned summer vacation,” Rakauskas said. “We implemented these flexible instructional days for this reason. Hopefully, we don’t have to use them, but we will pivot for one day if needed.”

Elementary principal Brian Kearney announced there is a potential donor interested in possibly donating new equipment for the elementary school playground. Kearney said it is in the very early stages and the possible donor wished to remain anonymous.

Kearney also announced the elementary carnival will return at the end of the school year after being canceled for the last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board approved the appointment of Shannon Kuchak as acting director of special education from April through October. Current special education director Amie Talarico will be on family medical leave during this period. Kuchak will return to her position as principal of student management at the end of the temporary appointment.

In celebration of Music In Our Schools Month, the board was presented with a video of band, orchestra and chorus students from second through 12th grade showing what they have been working on in music classes.

The board also presented two certificates of achievement to Trail students Coleman Wohlken for his participation in PMEA District 4 region orchestra and band and Cassie Rivenburg for her participation in PMEA District 4 region chorus.

In other business, the board approved:

■ A mini-bid contract with Pennsylvania PEPPM for switches to ePlus at a rate of $11,478; enclosures/racks to Dauphin DataCom at a rate of $1,385; and for wireless access points to ePlus at a rate of $12,122.

■ A contract with Nutrition Group Inc. for the 2022-23 school year. ■ A revised teacher induction manual for 2022-28.

■ The appointments Lindsey Howard, volunteer softball coach; Katie Beichler, volunteer junior high softball coach Christian Scotti, volunteer unified track and field coach; Mallory Griggs, volunteer track and field coach; and Michelle Fahey, volunteer field hockey coach.

The board will next meet for a work session Monday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. The Zoom link will be posted at www. ltsd.org.