

Trail board tightening tax burden
BY KEVIN MCCONLOGUE PRESS EXAMINER Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Lackawanna Trail School District announced some changes to its final budget.

At a work session meeting Monday night, business manager Keith Glynn announced the district’s 2022-23 final budget will be $22,628,346.65. The district was able to determine this final number due to a clearer vision on the amount of funding the district will receive from the state.

Glynn announced the district is expecting to receive $183,000 in basic education funding and $61,000 in special education funding, which is around 40 percent of what Trail would have received had Gov. Tom Wolf ’s budget passed without any amendments.

“This is right about what we expected to receive,” Glynn said. “We wish it was more, but we’re glad the school finally has a clear picture so we can move forward.”

Because of the funding, the proposed tax increases for each county will drop a little. Lackawanna County millage rate will rise from 174.76 mills to 182.68 mills, a decrease from the originally proposed 182.75 mills. Wyoming County’s millage rate will rise from 91.69 mills to 91.70 mills.

The board will vote on the final budget at its June 27 meeting.

Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas said the district will receive guidance from the state this month on how emergency instructional time can be used for the 2022-23. This past school year, the district was allowed to use flexible instructional days should the school have had to pivot to virtual instruction because of weather or pandemic reasons.

“I certainly expect next school year to be almost a full return to nor mal,” Rakauskas said. “As to any pandemic protocols the state will have in place for next year we will learn in the next month and be prepared for.”

At its next meeting the board will vote to approve:

-Bus contractors’ contracts and car and van driver rates for 2022-23.

-A solicitor contract extension with Sweet, Stevens, Katz & Williams from July 1-Sept. 30.

-A contract with Pivot Athletic T raining for $30,405 with additional hours billed at $35/hour for 2022-23.

-An agreement with Dalton Borough Police Department at $42/hour to provide school resource officer services for 2022-23.

 -The adoption of policies: 140.1-extracurricular participation by charter/ cyber charter students; and 801-public records, and the second reading of policy 239-foreign exchange students.

-The appointments of Dina Berrios, Leanne Lombardi, Boyd Semken, Alexandra Tompkins and Keith Youtz as summer remediation teachers; Quinn Kelley, Christian Scotti, and Natalie Cocchini as extended school year teachers; Kelsey Hopkins and Dave Hopkins as marching band volunteers; and Mike Bluhm as a volunteer golf assistant coach.

The board next meets for a regular meeting Monday, June 27, at 7:30 p.m. KEITH GLYNN