

LTSB queried about administrators

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Lackawanna Trail School Board held a public work session Monday night mostly to let the public know it had been interviewing to fill open spots for an elementary school principal and an assistant high school principal.

The elementary post will become vacant July 1 when Tonia Stoker vacates the post to become the district's curriculum director.

The assistant high school principal post became vacant this spring after former principal John Rushefski was appointed Old Forge superintendent and then assistant principal Mark Murphy became principal.

Both appointments could

be made as early as next Monday (June 16), board president Mark Lombardi said.

During the public comment period, Missy Bower asked about thoughts regarding the replacement of music teacher Janine Neratko who is retiring.

She and about a dozen parents were at the session with a similar concern.

Bower said before the board considered hiring another high-priced administrator to be asst. principal, she wondered if it might consider a Dean of Students drawn from the current faculty.

She said she thought the costs would be around \$9,000, compared to around \$65,000 which Murphy had previously been paid.

Bower said she was concerned the district in a cost-cutting move, might decide Neratko's position could be eliminated, a sentiment echoed by at least five other persons.

Superintendent Matt Rakauskas said a decision had not been made about the music teacher.

"We may choose to replace her," he said, "or we may choose to do a hybrid."

Board member Carol Selwood said the board was still taking input on the matter.

Board vice president Ned Clarke spoke about a public meeting held June 2 to take input regarding the district's discipline policy.

He said some good input was provided by the members of the community present.

Both Murphy and Stoker spoke to some language changes that will appear in student handbooks as a result of input, and the 2014-15 student handbooks will be on the board's plate next Monday.

Lombardi also noted it was possible a teacher contract might be ironed out by then at that could be announced.

Also on the agenda for next Monday was budget adoption.

However, business manager David Homish was not present to talk about any revisions that might have come about as a result of discussions in Harrisburg, and Lombardi suggested a final budget could possibly adopted at a special meeting June 30, if need be.