

Trail audit notes Sunshine Law violations

The Lackawanna Trail School Board has been cited by the state auditor general's office for Sunshine Law violations last year.

In a state audit issued last month by state auditor general Eugene A. DePasquale, it was noted that the Trail school board violated provisions of the Sunshine Act related to executive sessions.

The audit noted that five regular public meetings from January to May 2012 began later than the advertised 7:30 p.m. start time due to executive sessions held before the public meeting.

It further noted that board meeting minutes failed to report executive sessions or the reason for those sessions.

The audit recommended that Lackawanna Trail School District publicly announce the date, time and reason for all executive sessions, and that those meetings are held 'during an open meeting, at the conclusion of an open meeting, or announced for a future time.'

The report noted that the school district agreed to comply.

Another audit finding confirmed an overpayment of state funds to the district of \$57,581 during the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years.

The finding determined that the district included in its pupil count students from outside the district ('non-residents') who were placed in foster care in homes of district residents. State law requires that the Commonwealth provide school districts tuition for non-resident students, so those students should not be counted with the general student population when a district is applying for other state subsidies.

The audit recommended the district strengthen its 'pupil membership' reporting procedure, and that the Pennsylvania Dept. of Education resolve the overpayment to the district of \$57,581.

The district also agreed to comply.