

LT teacher tenders resignation

Brittney Lopes October 8, 2014

A Lackawanna Trail High School English teacher suspended last year because of criminal charges he faced following an alleged assault of a girlfriend has tendered his resignation.

Trail School board president Mark Lombardi announced the resignation submitted by Michael Petherick, 38, of Shickshinny, at a board work session although the board did not accept it.

Solicitor John Audi said the personnel issue surrounding Petherick would be addressed at the next voting school board meeting.

Petherick pleaded guilty on July 11, to simple assault and criminal trespass after Tunkhannock Twp. police responded to a domestic disturbance at a 27-year-old woman's Falls residence on May 19, 2013.

He was to be sentenced on Sept. 10, but President Judge Russell Shurtleff said that after seeing the pre-sentence investigation, he could not allow a plea arrangement made with District Attorney Jeff Mitchell to stand.

He ordered Petherick to face a trial, scheduled for the week of Oct. 20.

In other business, the Trail school board recommended that Lauren McNamara be appointed to the elementary school as a long term substitute for a Business, Computer, and Information Technology teacher position. The recommendation is for the first semester of the 2014-2015 school year at an annual salary of \$46,000 as per the collective bargaining agreement.

It was recommended, with regret, that the board accept the resignation of Michael Mould as the district's representative on the Northeast Educational Intermediate Unit.

Kevin Mulhern will be appointed to fulfill the unexpired term of Mould from the NEIU board of directors through June 30, 2017.

Resident Cathy Strauch approached the school board and proposed that Trail become involved with driver's education training and testing on school grounds. She noted an individual who had been associated with other school districts and has been given referrals from participating districts for students to study drivers education with him.

Superintendent Matthew Rakauskas felt the topic was open for discussion but was not something he felt comfortable pursuing with the board at this time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next school board meeting will be held at Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center on Tuesday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 p.m.