

Wyalusing Trying to Be Competitive for Substitutes

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—BY WARREN HOWELER—

School districts across the state are struggling to find substitute teachers.

This struggle has prompted some of those districts to look at many options to attract substitutes, with some going so far as to increase the per day rate paid to those teachers.

One district that is increasing its daily rate for substitute teachers is the Wyalusing Area School District as school board members last month voted to increase its daily pay for those instructors by 25 percent for this school year.

The action by the board came nine months after it last increased the daily pay for substitutes within the district.

That first vote, taken back in January, hiked the pay rates from \$92 to \$100.

The latest raise increased from those rates from \$100 to \$125 per day for day-to-day substitute teachers.

For short-term substitute teachers, who are employed for 20 to 89 consecutive days of the school year, the pay increased from \$110 to \$150 per day—a 36 percent pay hike.

On the support staff employee side, day-to-day substitute aide/secretaries saw their pay increase from \$12 to \$15 per hour—or 25 percent—for this school year.

“We are looking to be regionally competitive for the various substitute positions,” said Wyalusing School Superintendent Dr. Jason Bottiglieri. “The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need for substitutes and the increase in pay for substitute teachers, substitute paraprofessionals, substitute nurses and substitute support staff can be attractive for community members who desire to make a positive impact in the school system and our students.”

PA requires substitute teachers to have a bachelor’s degree while a substitute nurse must have a minimum credential as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Bottiglieri noted.

There are no specific credentials required for the paraprofessional and support staff substitute positions.

“Our online application portal is available for anyone interested in service as a substitute,” he added.

For more information, interested individuals are asked to visit wyalusingrams.com and click on the “employment opportunities” button.