

Gorgone resigns as Lake-Lehman coach

by Joan Kingsbury

The question of building a new Lake-Noxen Elementary School dominated the Lake-Lehman School Board meeting Tuesday night.

Ben Orfaly, president of the Harvey's Lake Taxpayers Association, and Stanley Magalski, representing the Lehman Taxpayers Association, once again urged the board to consider refurbishing the Lake building instead of constructing a new elementary school. Orfaly informed the board that he had with him petitions containing 1,000 signatures protesting new school construction.

It is the feeling of both taxpayers groups that the Lake building could be renovated with the possibility of purchasing modular units for additional space at a lower cost than new construction.

School board member Alan Keiper challenged the idea of using modular units stating that they will not last nearly as long as a conventionally built structure. Orfaly disagreed and responded, "By the time they are ready to go, registration will be dropped and you won't need them."

When the board was questioned as to why they had not originally sought to renovate the Lake building, it was pointed out that architects from the firms of Lacey, Atherton, and Davis and Smith, Miller, and Associates found the idea of renovation was not feasible.

Several parents from the Noxen area expressed their approval of a new building concept. One mother stated that the Lake building is drafty, not well heated on some days,

and that several classrooms are below ground level.

Another Noxen resident stated, "People do not realize what the children are going through." The fact was emphasized that those living in the Noxen area are paying their share of taxes even though their children are not attending the relatively new Lehman-Jackson Elementary School.

Magalski responded, "On behalf of the Lehman Taxpayers, we are not against a nice school for the children over there in Laketon. We are for a nice school. The Westmoreland School (in the Dallas School District) has been remodeled, go down and take a look at it. It's beautiful. Contractors who inspected the Lake school are saying you have a better school there for being 53 years old than the two

new schools here combined."

Dana Campbell, a contractor who has worked on such projects as remodeling Scranton City Hall gave his opinion of the condition of the Lake School. "We got a good look at the foundation, outer walls, inside walls, everything is very sound." He agreed that renovations such as replacing windows with thermo-pane, installation of rigid insulation, and putting in ceiling tiles are needed.

He also pointed out that if desired, an addition could be built on, thus eliminating the need for modular units. Campbell concluded, "The school could be redecorated, carpeting put in, and the cost would be very minimal." Campbell feels that the result could be a very nice school.

Douglas Trumbower, architect for

the project, announced that he would travel to Harrisburg on Thursday to present the latest plans for the school to the Department of Education. Dr. M. David Preston, superintendent of Lake-Lehman schools, Orfaly, Magalski, and a representative from the Citizens Advisory Committee and any school board members who wish to go would accompany Trumbower. Orfaly and Magalski had been mailed an invitation from the school district.

Board member Ed Mark made a motion to "authorize the administration and architect to approach the Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Education to entertain whether they will consider renovation of the Lake building."

At first the board voted against this

motion 5 to 4 since those voting no felt that the invitation to accompany school officials had been done for this purpose. After much protest from many of the approximately 75 people in attendance, the board revoted with an 8 to 1 "yes" vote.

The board accepted the resignation of Richard Gorgone as head football coach. The resignation was accepted with Gilbert Tough, chairman of the board stating, "Mr. Gorgone has made a contribution working with our students." The board also declared the job of head football coach "open."

The Lake-Lehman High School Band received board approval to attend a band competition in Atlanta, Ga. in April.

Decision on grievance to be handed down

by Charlot Denmon

Janice Gelsleichter, regular part time cafeteria worker, appeared at the Dallas School Board meeting Monday night to present a grievance concerning the hiring of another worker to fill a full time position in the junior high school cafeteria.

Mrs. Gelsleichter, through James Sahaida, Pennsylvania Schools Service Personnel Association (PSSPA) field consultant, maintained that according to Paragraph IX, Section B,

of the service personnel's contract, members already employed in the cafeteria will be given the opportunity to apply for a position which becomes vacant.

According to the paragraph, the job is to be posted and the vacancy filled according to seniority, competency and experience. Mrs. Gelsleichter contends that she has two months seniority over the person hired by the district to fill the position.

Gelsleichter explained that she sent letters to Dr. Richard A. Shipe, school superintendent, and Naomi Prynne, food service director but she never received written confirmation that they had been received nor was she granted an interview. Eventually, she was told another person had been given the position.

The status of the person who was given the position was full time while Gelsleichter was still part time working every day.

Both had worked for the district for 10 years but Gelsleichter had been hired two months prior to the other individual.

Gelsleichter said that she had worked as a cook in the township building when it was the intermediate school, had experience as a cashier and also as a general cafeteria worker. She stated that she had never been told there was any difference in her competency or experience as compared to the other

person. She also stated that the position given to the other worker was paid \$3.48 an hour compared to Gelsleichter's \$3 an hour, and that there was a difference of two hours in the positions.

Gelsleichter, as well as other workers at the meeting, reported that contrary to the contract negotiations, the above vacancy was the first ever posted. Other vacancies at previous times were filled before any part time employees heard of them.

Atty. Ben Jones, III, district solicitor, explained that the board will consider seniority, competency, and experience in its disposition of the grievance. The disposition will be in writing and delivered to Gelsleichter seven days after the decision is made.

Jones also stated that on Jan. 9, a hearing was held on alleged violations by George Russ, maintenance worker at the Westmoreland Elementary

School. It is alleged that Russ failed to report to work on Dec. 27, 28, and 29 as assigned and also failed to remain at work as assigned. It was also charged that there were misrepresentations on his time card submitted to the business office.

Russ was suspended Jan. 9, effective 5 p.m., until a hearing on Jan. 29 before the Dallas School Board, pursuant to the school's code. He will be notified and may be represented by counsel if he so desires. Shipe explained that the school's program Plancon, referred to several issues of concern to the administration and board since October, when the Dallas Elementary School was cited for numerous violations which were ordered to be corrected by Jan. 9.

Shipe said that the district immediately moved to assure the safety of the children, work was initiated and is now completed. The district has reported that the Department of Labor and Industry inspect the completed work and is reasonably sure the project will be approved. Shipe explained that the cost of the project through the cooperation of CETA was done for a total of \$13,000.

As a result of the borough school building inspection, it was mandated that all buildings be inspected. Since that time, Trucksville Elementary School has been inspected and details of the citations are not serious, according to Shipe.

Two of the citations dealt with the boiler room. Several times this has been inspected and approved but this time it was a concern of the department.

Department of Labor and Industry found that the entrance is not protected with any door and that the district must provide a proper fire-rated door assembly.

Other findings included that the door to the former coal bin does not close properly; that there are unprotected steel beams with the required fire-rated construction; that there are unprotected steel "I" beams in the storage rooms and corridor of the basement.

The other citations were minor and related to handrails on stairways, latches, and fire doors and windows.

On Jan. 10, the Dallas Township School building was inspected but there has been no written citations but verbal reports that there are sufficient concerns that the District may have to vacate the second floor and the basement. The ceiling in the cafeteria also will have to be replaced.

Shipe has been authorized to come up with a contingency plan if the floors must be vacated.

The district, faced with fiscal restraints, on top of it now has the problem of additional outlay of funds for safety of the children.

Under the Plancon project, the district also will purchase the Dallas Intermediate School building from the federal government and renovate it to meet all standards of Labor and Industry.

John Turner was named senior class advisor to fill the vacancy left by Mrs. Margaret Johnson, who resigned for personal reasons. Ann Marie Carlin was appointed to fill the position of Miss Mabel Jenkins, phys ed instructor, during her sabbatical leave.

Mrs. Beverly Joan Longo, RN, was appointed to serve as high school nurse for Miss A. Jennie Hill, who is taking a sabbatical leave. Mrs. Grace Lord was appointed to the Home Economics Department during the leave of absence of Miss Laura Menzel.



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