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RABBITS EVERYWHERE—It was Easter Rabbits everywhere for Jessica Oravitz last Saturday—colored rabbits—as she found two prize-winning eggs at the Dallas Junior Woman's Club Easter Egg Hunt at Dallas High School. Jessica knows there's an Easter Rabbit for certain. (Photo by Mark Moran)

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Lake-Lehman decides against coal

'There's no fuel like an old fuel'

Fuel to be used for heating and transportation in the Lake-Lehman School District dominated the special Monday night meeting of the school board with the heat source sparking a "heated exchange" between the board and local taxpayers group leader, Stan Magalski.

The board voted to approve a change order calling for installation of a multi faceted fuel boiler system at the new Lake Elementary School to cost \$16,761. This modification in the plans will enable the heating system to burn oil, and natural or propane gas, in addition to providing a back-up system should any of the fuels mentioned become unavailable.

Director Gilbert Tough urged the board to continue to pursue the possibility of obtaining supplementary energy in solar form to heat water.

Magalski informed the board he has just returned from Florida and observed coal is the fuel of choice throughout the south, despite the fact the area has no coal deposits. He continued, "What is with you people (board members)? It is asinine to even consider oil for the new school as we are in the anthracite region, so what about coal?"

Al Keiper responded explaining the projected cost of oil versus coal over a 20-year period would be the same due to the higher labor costs involved in heating with coal. Director Arnold Garinger assured Magalski the board has considered coal very seriously.

Board president, Angelo DeCesaris said that professionals advised the board there are too many labor costs and inconveniences involved with coal. Magalski was not appeased at all, retorting, "Maybe you should look for new pros."

Magalski then put the board on notice that he is going to make an issue out of "it" if the new school is heated with oil. He indicated there are some professionals who give good advice, but every professional opinion is not the final word. He told the board it's time to "go to someone else and get better advice as he is now holding the board, not its hired pros, responsible for the heating system in the new school."

He went on to remind the board, "the average citizen has common sense and can think for himself."

Another issue came up when it was learned there are no concrete provisions for getting natural gas into the new school. In order to do

so, Pennsylvania Gas and Water told the district it would cost the district between \$180,000 to \$200,000 for the utility company to run a gas line into the new school.

PG&W reportedly told a board member the company has the gas and would be pleased to service the school if a line existed. It was emphasized that the figures given are rough ones, not firm, and negotiations for a more reasonable sum are ongoing with PG&W.

Director Al Keiper then explained if natural gas was utilized, the heating bill at the new school would decrease by \$14 to \$15,000 annually compared with oil. Therefore, in a 12-year amortization period, the Lake-Lehman district would break even and the initial capital outlay for the installation of a gas line would be paid for.

To date, the only action regarding the possibility of installing a gas line to the school is that PG&W workers and school officials have been sent to count the additional homes situated in the path of the proposed gas line. However, these figures do not match. The board feels PG&W would also benefit from the gas line to the school as the utility could pick up numerous new customers.

Partially for that reason, negotiations on the price of a gasoline are continuing and "if the school can get the line at a reasonable cost, it may be a prudent investment," noted DeCesaris. There is nothing in writing between the two parties.

Superintendent Dr. M. David Preston announced the Governor's Energy Council had recommended approval of a \$30,000 energy grant with an extra \$10,000 as hardship monies.

Board voted to reimburse the bus contractors 20 cents on every gallon of gasoline purchased since Feb. 1. This totals \$7,100. Administration was authorized to prepare specs and solicit bids to replace two 1972 buses. Both gasoline and diesel models will be considered.

In addition to the present bus discipline policy, persons who have refused to make restitution for damages done to school vehicles will be denied bus riding privileges until the payment has been received. This action will be taken after proper hearing before the school administration. Anthony Marchakitus said bills for damages have been sent and in some cases ignored and it is time "more teeth be put into the policy."

The board will consider the leasing and-or purchase of an auxiliary vehicle such as a 12-passenger van for shuttle service to extra curricular activities, primarily sporting events, in which a bus would not be necessary.

Ray Bowersox, business manager, will attend the accounting workshop in Atlantic City on June 26-27 at a cost of about \$310. He will assume the cost of transportation and meals not included in the registration. Director Garinger commended stating "Ray could probably conduct the workshop."

George Honeywell, Jr., RD 4, Dallas, was employed on March 25 as a watchman in the district under the C.E.T.A. program. Board asked his hours not be made public.

Luzerne Intermediate Unit budget was approved by the LIU 18 board on Feb. 27. Lake-Lehman approved its share, \$9,011, which is \$1,635 less than last term.

Adult lunches were increased in price to \$1.40 in compliance with U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines.

There'll be some changes in the junior and senior high schools as the school architect, Smith-Miller Associates, was authorized to

develop specs for the following: conversion of the existing junior high school cafeteria kitchen to a satellite breakfast-lunch facility with student dining area which permits use of the gym throughout the entire school day; conversion of the junior high stage to a large group instruction area; expansion of the existing senior high library; and renovation and expansion of the athletic-activity facilities at the senior high to include corridor F, room 25, and related adjacent areas.

Bids or quotes for the following five projects were also authorized: Painting the senior high gym and auditorium; refurbishing the student lockers in the junior and senior high schools; replacement of the lockers in the senior high school boys locker room; and installing carpeting in the junior high school hallways and selected rooms along with the senior high library, auxiliary gym, administrative area, and rooms 2,3 and 3A.

Board took action to proceed with application for financial assistance to acquire the necessary equipment to facilitate the operation of a satellite breakfast-lunch program at the junior high school.