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Serving the Back Mt. Area

Negotiators optimistic here ; teacher strike not anticipated

Mediator Anthony Andriole has been meeting with negotiating committees of both Dallas and Lake-Lehman School Districts, recently, in the hopes of arriving at an amicable agreement between the teachers and board members of each of the districts.

Despite the fact that no settlement has been reached in either district, none of the parties involved anticipate a strike. Representatives of the school boards and of the districts' education associations are

optimistic that agreements will be accomplished in the near future.

John Turner, president of Dallas Education Association, reported on Monday that Andriole would meet with the board's negotiating committee and the DEA's representatives on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at 7 p.m.

Turner said that the DEA's representatives, headed by Francis Kopko, and the board committee of Earl Fritzes, Russ Havey and Basil Russin began meeting in January

and continued until June when both sides declared an impasse.

"Negotiations have been held up primarily because of language changes," said Turner. "We have used the same language in our agreements over the past 10 years. This year the board came in and wanted to strip the language from our contract."

"Our association argued that we have used the same language for the past 10 years and that there should be no reason to change it. We haven't come to any real movement forward."

School board president Dick Hislop said that there are three or four issues separating the board and the teachers.

"One of the issues is financial and the others are non-economic," said Hislop.

Hislop confirmed that a mediation session would be held Tuesday night.

"I am hopeful that something more definite will result from the meeting with Andriole," said Hislop. He does not anticipate a teachers strike, however, but believes an amicable agreement can be reached between the board and DEA.

Earl Fritzes, chairman of the board's negotiations with the teachers, said that he is optimistic that an agreement will be reached. He doesn't see any strike.

"There are several concerns separating the teachers and the board," said Fritzes. "But on the final line, it is the economic factor which is the major concern. Once that is resolved I believe the other concerns will fall into line."

Fritzes also reported that he hoped Tuesday's mediation meeting would result in an agreement between both parties.

"The later the meeting continues," said Fritzes, "the more likely the negotiations can be completed."

Kopko could not be reached for comment.

Carole Pyle, president of Lake-Lehman's Education Association, said that representatives of the association and the board's negotiating committee had numerous meetings before a recent session was held with state mediator Anthony Andriole. Ms. Pyle said another mediation session with Andriole is scheduled for Aug. 18.

"A strike has never been mentioned by members of the LLEA," said Ms. Pyle. "Several non-economic issues and our economic package are the main concern of the mediator. We have made some progress and are hopeful that both parties will come to a just agreement in the near future."

Allen Sorchik, member of the Lake-Lehman School Board's negotiating committee, said that most of the non-economic concerns were settled. Sorchik said that he was confident that progress would be made at the mediation session with Anthony Andriole on Aug. 18.

"I don't believe there will be a strike," said Sorchik. "Most of the issues are resolved and I believe that the teachers will continue to work if an amicable agreement has not been reached by the beginning of the 1980-81 school year."

"We have had eight or nine meetings between both parties and have made progress. We don't foresee any strike but our coaches, handleader and other co-curricular advisors have assured us that these student activities will continue in the event such an action were taken."

"These people will not see the students suffer because of any such action."

None of the parties involved in the negotiations could reveal the specifics of the teachers' requests. Board members from both districts, as well as representatives of the LLEA and DEA said that all had pledged to refrain from discussing the requests until final agreements have been reached between all concerned.



LITE BEER GIRLS WIN--Lite Beer team member Annie McGuire expresses her happiness after her team defeated Pruitt's pride, 7-4, last Friday. The Back Mountain Slo-Pitch Softball League team ended the season with a 5-2 record, coached by Kevin McGuire.

PIAA District reviews Dallas, Lehman transfers

The District 2 PIAA committee meeting was held last week at John S. Fine High School, Nanticoke, to look into reported transfers of students for interscholastic athletic programs, according to District 2 Chairman Anthony Marchakitus. Marchakitus said the subject of transfers has become more than rumors within recent months and the committee decided to see what is actually happening.

"District 2 covers Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties," said Marchakitus. "We have a set of rules to go by and if those rules are violated, the violator or violators

must be penalized. Many cases may appear the same but they aren't always the same."

"We had a number of principals in to see if the things we've been hearing are actually happening."

"We obtained information and we discussed it but we came to no definite conclusions until we get more information."

Marchakitus said officials of Wyoming Area, Meyers, Lake-Lehman and Dallas Schools were present. He also said that he would remove himself from the investigation because he is assistant superintendent at Lake-Lehman.



COOLING OFF--Idetown fireman Dick Heuer cools off with a cold drink while riding on the back of the fire truck which is wetting down the dusty track at the fire company's horse show last weekend. [Photo by Mark Moran]

Water company awaits PUC word

L.W. Venable, manager of the Dallas-Shavertown Water Company, said on Monday that he expects to hear soon from the Public Utilities Commission on its decision about what the water company is to do to resolve the problems presented by consumers in the recent hearings before the Commission.

"Until I hear from the Commission," said Venable, "I have no idea what the company is expected to do."

Venable said the recent water problem in the Mt. Airy and Pioneer Avenue appears to have been resolved. He said a sizeable leak

found on the lower end of Mt. Airy Road was repaired.

"I've had no complaints recently," said Venable. "I'm sure if the problem had not been resolved I would have heard either from the consumers or one of the regulatory agencies."

Venable was referring to the period around July 4 when consumers in the Mt. Airy area had either no water or very low water pressure for a period of several days at a time. Investigation by employees of the water company revealed the major leak on Mt. Airy Road.

Beach Association announces fireworks

The Harveys Lake Beach Association will hold their annual mammoth Fireworks Display at the Sunset section of the Lake on Sunday evening, Aug. 31st, at approximately 9 p.m.

Fireworks will be set off as the Harveys Lake Yacht Club sail on

the Lake in their annual Torchlight Parade beneath the aerial display. The event is a very popular one and is sponsored by our Beach Association and local business people as a public service and signifies the end of the summer season at the Lake.

Lehman 'supports' Fair 'activities'

In response to a request from the Fall Fair Association Monday night, Lehman Township supervisors gave a carefully worded go-ahead for use of a portion of the association's property in the township during the upcoming Fall Fair.

R. Spencer Martin, Atty. Frank Townend and Lee Johnson, representing the Fall Fair Association, requested a permit for use of a tract of land near the Medical Center for rides and parking during the fair.

In requesting the permit, Townend reminded the supervisors that the Fall Fair is sponsored by a number of community service organizations for the good of the community. Martin noted that it is not the association that needs money but rather the paramedics. He explained that a good amount of funds from the fair will go towards their financial needs.

Martin pointed out that the plans for this property are only temporary; that any structures will be used only for this year's fair, then dismantled. He stated, "The Fall Fair Association is not trying to circumvent zoning. We are not at the state where the zoning board would want to listen to us and we would not want to present what we have to them. If our current plans were presented, it would be necessary to present them again when plans are formulated and reasonably final."

Lehman Township Solicitor James Van Jura said he did not believe that the board had the "statutory authority" to issue a permit for this particular use. He noted that the board in no way opposes the fair but legally they are not able to issue a permit.

Supervisor Ignatius Hozempa asked Martin why the Fall Fair

Association did not apply to the township zoning board for a temporary land use permit which would be effective for only a certain number of days. Dallas Borough had granted such a permit for use of land in that municipality for this year's fair.

Martin answered that Dallas Borough did not require a public hearing for this short-term use while Lehman Township seemed to require it. A member of Lehman Township's zoning board who was in attendance explained that "no place does it say that the zoning board has the right to grant a variance or exception on land zoned agricultural unless a public hearing is held."

All three supervisors were in agreement with the statement of Supervisor Alan Major. "We are in favor of the Fall Fair and what it stands for, but we don't want to do anything illegal."

On the recommendation of Van Jura the board passed a motion presented by Chairman of the Board Paul Goodwin stating, "The Lehman Township Board of Supervisors goes on record supporting the civic-minded activities of the Fall Fair Association and further states that the board of supervisors cannot foresee any circumstances under which it would take any action to hinder the Fall Fair."

The resignation of Chief of Police Thomas Kane touched off a shuffle in the township police department. The board approved the appointment of Bill Goodwin, now assistant chief, as police chief effective Sept. 15 at a salary of \$6,000 per year.

Patrolman Ron Orkwis will assume the role of assistant chief on that date. The board accepted the resignation of Patrolman Harry E. Brown, Jr.