

Board votes to close school

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Disgruntled parents, along with several board directors, voiced their objections for over an hour Monday night in a last ditch effort to prevent the closing of the third Dallas school in as many years. But despite their feelings, the Dallas Area School Board voted 6-3 to shut down the Dallas Township Elementary School at the end of the current academic year.

Dr. William Camp, Thomas Landon, James Richardson, Harry Sickler, Tex Wilson and Donald Jones. Those against were Ernest Ashbridge, John George and Albert Pisaneschi.

In 1983, the district also closed the Trucksville and Dallas elementary schools. For the past few months, school administrators had been mulling over the decision to close the 53-year old structure and devise a new system of student distribution and, in particular, the housing of sixth and ninth grade students in the same building. Most agreed, including citizens, to close the school but not with

mixing the two groups in question.

Over the last six weeks, Superintendent Gerald Wycallis had been meeting with PTO groups, fielding concerns and offering input over the proposed move.

Those still against the plan who showed up at Monday night's session already surmised the shut-down, but they, along with several board members, made one last plea to overturn the proposition.

Director John George, aiming his questions at fellow director Harry Sickler, asked, "Tell me Mr. Sickler, why are you recommending to close this building?" Responded Sickler, "I have listened to many opin-

ions from teachers and administrators and other groups and it is my personal opinion that it should be closed."

"The hell with your opinion," fumed George. "What about the people sitting out there who want solid answers?"

"Why are you blaming me?" retorted Sickler. "I'm not the only one voting. I'm not an engineer, but I have a report from someone who is and I have to go by their recommendations."

Included in those recommendations was an estimate (See BOARD, page 2)

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Wycallis confident of stability

Despite the elimination of yet another Dallas Area school, Board Superintendent Gerald Wycallis says the immediate future of the district is stable and that he does not foresee any more shutdowns.

The closing of the Dallas Township Elementary Building on Monday night marked the third time in the last three years a school had fallen by the wayside. In 1983, both the Trucksville and Dallas elementary schools were closed. And, despite the overall enrollment decline, which began in 1976 and is expected to continue through 1991, no more crises in the way of school eliminations are predicted.

"I don't see a problem at least for the next five years," Wycallis said. "We did see the closings of the other buildings coming but, based on projection figures, our elementary population is stable and I don't see any more problems along that line based on those projections."

From past studies those figures, which are arrived at primarily by the number of births in a particular school district, appear to be right on the money. In 1977-78, the enrollment of the Dallas Area School

Enrollment figures

GRADE	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
K	206	193	162	195
1	186	202	190	160
2	166	175	190	179
3	188	163	171	186
4	155	185	160	168
5	148	152	182	157
	1049	1070	1055	1045
6	175	143	147	176
7	188	184	150	154
8	164	188	184	150
	527	515	481	480
9	212	147	168	165
10	233	214	149	171
11	214	211	193	134
12	232	211	208	190
	891	783	718	660
TOTALS	2467	2368	2254	2185

District was 3508. The number of students this year, taken from the actual attendance register, stands at 2545, only 12 students off from the

figure projected for this academic year.

Statistics gathered by the Pennsylvania Economy League show

that the enrollment will continue to spiral downward through 1991, basing out at 2241 for Dallas Area, a decline of 16.3 per cent. That figure ranks the Back Mountain school at the mid-way point in relation to the other school districts in the Wyoming Valley, all of which are also expected to experience dropoffs.

Lake Lehman will decline by 6.1 per cent overall, but in comparison with the others, they are among the most stable.

As for the elementary population, only three districts have experienced sharper declines than Dallas from 1978-79 to 1984-85. According to John Metta, research associate for the Pennsylvania Economy League, Nanticoke topped the list with a 32.5 per cent drop, followed by Pittston Area with 25.7 and Wyoming Area at 29.2. Dallas was listed fourth with a 23.9 per cent listing.

(These figures are projected for the Dallas School District and have been prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education Historic Enrollments as reported on PDE-4035.)

— JOHN HOINSKI



BISHOP JAMES TIMLIN

Center dedicated

The Mercy Center Nursing Unit, a 61-bed facility located in Mercy Center, Dallas, was dedicated on March 8. Bishop James C. Timlin blessed the new facility.

The nursing unit occupies three floors of A-Wing of Mercy Center. On the ground floor, there are physical and occupational therapy rooms and dental and podiatry facilities. There is also a doctor's office with a waiting room and examining room.

The minimal care unit is located on the first floor and the skilled care unit is on the second floor. On each floor there is a nurse's station and a day lounge, which looks out on the grounds of Mercy Center and the campus of College Misericordia.

The facility will be used to care for members of the Sisters of Mercy, Scranton Province, who are retired and no longer able to care for themselves. Occupancy of the nursing unit will begin in April and is expected to be completed in June.

The renovation of A-Wing was designed by the Wilkes-Barre firm of Pyros and Sanderson Architects and Planners. Sordoni Construction Company was general contractor.

Prison officials, inmates educated about AIDS

By JOHN HOINSKI
Staff Writer

Bernard Healey, an epidemiologist for the State Department of Health, regularly works with patients who either have or are suspected of having AIDS and says he has no fear whatsoever of contracting the disease.

"I am not afraid at all because I know about the illness," Healey told prison guards at the State Correctional Institute at Dallas last week. The lecture was part of a two-day information session that was also available to the inmates.

"Aside from AIDS itself, what makes people so afraid of it is their own ignorance. And I mean that in

the positive sense, in that they are not informed about it."

Healey says AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is not a disease, but a syndrome. It is the failure of the body's natural immunity system to fight off diseases and can only be picked up in certain situations.

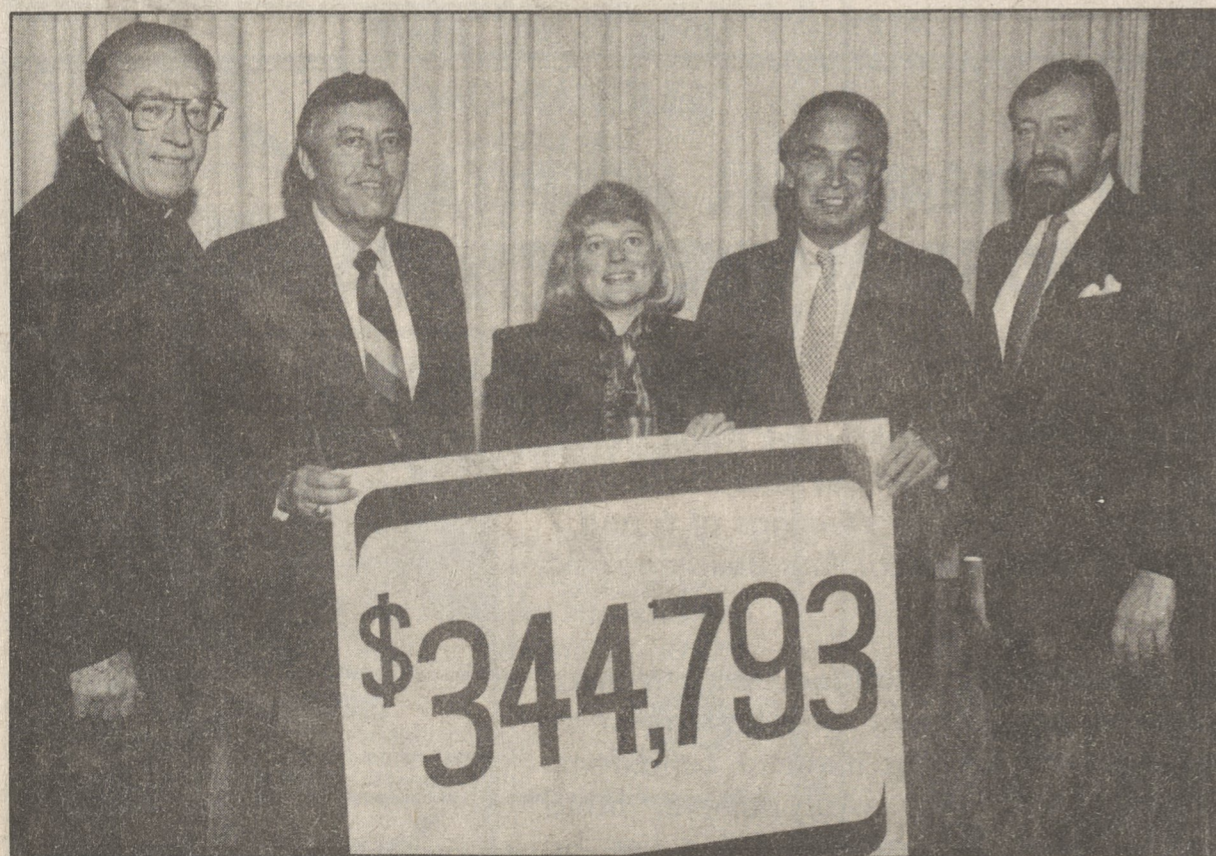
"There was an incident in a subway in New York where two people were carrying on a normal conversation," Healey noted. Then the man said, 'Oh, by the way, I have AIDS.' Well, the woman started screaming that the guy next to her had AIDS. Everybody panicked, started running for the door, and three people wound up being injured trying to get out of the car.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

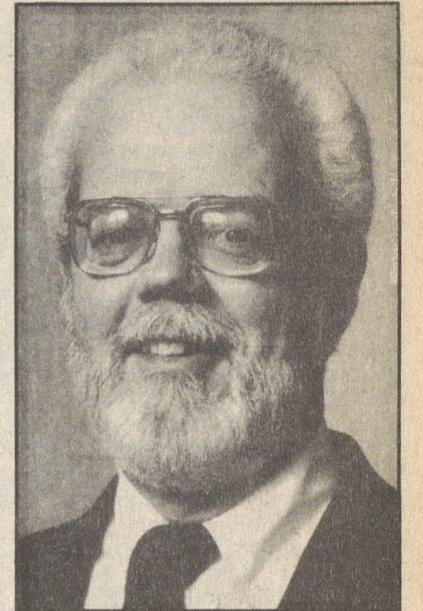
Cookies arrive

Girl Scout Cookies arrived at the State Correctional Institute at Dallas last week as members of the prison's Lifers Association purchased the cookies from members of Girl Scout Troop 706 of Lehman to help fund the troop's trip to George this summer. Shown unloading the cookies are, from left, Frank Metzger, vice president; George Peterson, treasurer; and Paul Ware, secretary.



Goal surpassed

College Misericordia's 1986 "Funds for a Better Future" annual campaign has been a tremendous success, announced Murray Ufberg, campaign chairman, during the final report meeting and victory dinner held Wednesday at the Woodlands Inn in Plains Township. Ufberg said that a total of \$344,793 or 106 percent of the \$325,000 goal was achieved. Monsignor Andrew McGowan, chairman of Misericordia's Board of Trustees, served as master of ceremonies. The Misericordia Chamber singers, under the direction of Dr. Michael Larkin, entertained the nearly 200 volunteers in attendance. Invocation was given by Father Jack Bendik, college chaplain. Shown are leaders of College Misericordia's annual campaign who helped to make the fund drive the most successful in the college's history. From left, Monsignor Andrew J. McGowan, Glenn Forney, Mary Beth Brady, Murray Ufberg and Dr. Joseph Fink.



DR. BRUCE L. WILSON

Wilson named to position

Dr. Bruce L. Wilson, former president of Beaver College in suburban Philadelphia, has been appointed Dean of institutional advancement at College Misericordia. The announcement was made by Dr. Joseph R. Fink, college president.

"Dr. Wilson brings us a wealth of educational experience on several different levels of higher education," said Dr. Fink. "As a former college president, he has invaluable understanding and insight into the total institutional advancement function."

In his present position, Dr. Wilson is responsible for foundations and grants, annual campaign, alumni affairs, public relations and other elements of institutional marketing. In addition, he will serve as a member of the college's executive management team.

Prior to assuming the presidency of Beaver College, Dr. Wilson was the second ranking college officer and dean of the faculty at Elizabethtown College. He also served as the dean of the center for continuing education and coordinator of planning at Guildford College in North Carolina; assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University, University Park; and instructor at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Wilson earned a doctorate from the University of Minnesota and attended the Frederick Wilhelm University in Germany as a Fulbright graduate scholar.

Church slates Revival services

Dallas Baptist Church, Idetown, announces that the "Good News America, God Loves You" Revival will begin Sunday, March 16 at 11 a.m. Evening services will be held on four consecutive nights.

Sunday's evening service will begin at 7 p.m.; other evening services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Child care will be provided for pre-schoolers.

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Daffodil Days have arrived!

Daffodil Days are here - and will continue through Saturday, March 15.

Daffodil Days are sponsored by the Wyoming Valley Unit of the American Cancer Society and give all area residents an opportunity to help those stricken with cancer by purchasing a \$3 bunch of daffodils.

Daffodils are the flower of hope, the first sign of spring and bring a breath of fresh air to those area residents who are afflicted with cancer because the proceeds from this sale will benefit the local unit of the American Cancer Society and the programs it sponsors.

According to Veronica Farinola of Dallas, chairman of the Daffodil Days sale, there are 51 locations throughout the area where daffodils will be offered.

An event that has grown enormously in size since its inception in the Wyoming Valley area, Daffodil Days is expected to raise nearly \$5,000 for the local unit of the American Cancer Society.