

Dallas district applies for more computer grants

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

In addition to adopting a tentative budget, the Dallas School Board also approved a resolution to apply for a \$214,674 grant to the U.S. Department of Education and to use the funds for additional computer-based learning.

Board members also approved submitting applications for federal funds under the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act of 1981 and further approve the Dallas District to serve as the sponsoring agency to operate these programs.

In other business the board members approved a resolution to approve the list of 96 girls and 96 boys for graduation from the Dallas Senior High School on June 12.

- Approved a resolution to increase the driver's training fee (behind the wheel) from \$100 to \$110, effective September 5, 1990.

- Approved payment in the amount of \$58,590 to Wolanski Construction Inc. for general construction in the senior high school; payment in the amount of \$990 to Contractors Group Inc. for plumbing at the senior high school; and payment in the amount of \$30,157.20 to G.R.

Noto & Son Inc. for electrical work at the senior high school.

- The board also approved payment of \$3,326.15 to Smith Miller and Associates Inc. for architectural services at the senior high school and an additional \$6,535.20 to Smith Miller Associates Inc. for architectural services at the senior high school chemistry lab.

- Accepted the resignation of Thomas F. Carr, professional employee for retirement in accordance with the District's policies and procedures, after 33 years of service; and accepted the resignation of Arthur Hontz, professional employee for professional services, after his 30

years of service with the District.

- Appointed Atty. Ben Jones as the District's solicitor for the year 1990-91.

- Board member James Richardson reported that the cafeteria had reported a loss of \$32,818 to date and that he had conferred with Gerald Wycallis about offering a la carte lunches only in the future after surveying parents of the students in the district if they agreed. The report revealed that more students are buying the ala carte lunches than the Type "A" lunches.

Strips

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council members to visit his home to hear firsthand how objectionable the noise is.

Earlier, council president Timothy Carroll had announced that the council had met with representatives of PennDOT, Senator Lemmond and Representative Dietterick in an attempt to reduce the noise while maintaining safety. Carroll said PennDOT would soon be studying the safety, noise levels and lighting at the intersection.

Carroll also said that a traffic control box presently attached to a pole in the center of the intersection of routes 309 and 415 would be moved across Route 309 to a pole in front of Valentine's store.

Informed by James Stallone, who practices counseling in an office building near the strips, that a warning light would cost only \$2,000 instead of the \$20,000 originally thought, Carroll offered that the council would look into the possibility of installing one. Carroll noted that the state had first told him an overhead light was needed, but has since backed off to a roadside "wig-wag" light.

"We're working with the state; it doesn't happen overnight," Carroll warned. He said that by the next meeting of the council, either the problem would have been solved or a solution would be determined.

Both Stallone and Valentine suggested that the combination of a warning light and filled-in rumble strips, which they said still get a driver's attention, would be a good solution to the problem.

But filling the offending rumble strips completely seems out of the question. "They (PennDOT) absolutely refuse to fill them in completely," said councilman Russ Eyet. He said that once installed to specifications, the state feared the

Unlike past meetings, residents praised the council for responding

modifying or removing the strips would leave them open to a lawsuit if an accident victim claimed the strips caused a car to lose control.

In the end, residents seemed pleased that at least the council was responding to their complaints. "We appreciate hearing that you're with us," Stallone said after Carroll had asked that council be given another month to correct the problem.

In other business:
• Edward Hartman of Hartman Insurance presented a proposal to handle the borough's insurance for the next year at a cost of \$28,662. He claimed his plan would save at least \$7,812 from the present policy, which is through Slocum Insurance. The council voted to discuss the new proposal before the end of the month.

- Paul Donlin, 45 Maplewood Avenue, offered to purchase an abandoned roadway near his property.

- Ben Phillips, Birch Hill Lane, asked about plans to repair and repave Huntsville Road. Councilman Donald Shaffer said that the state has said they will pave part of it in 1991 and the rest in 1992.

- Pat Peiffer noted that a meeting will be held to discuss the Lackawanna/Luzerne solid waste recycling facility May 29 at Hayfield House on the Penn State campus starting at 7:30.

- The recent spring clean up cost a total of \$13,885. More than 30 containers of waste were collected.

Borchetta explains cuts to school board

By CHARLOT M. DENMON
Staff Writer

In a report to the Lake-Lehman School Board last Tuesday, Superintendent Dr. Charles Borchetta presented a fiscal year 1991 budget that included cuts in spending in many areas. The decreases included cuts in supplies, equipment, travel, delay of new textbook purchases, elimination of late bus runs and summer programs as well as recommendations to curtail or alter programs.

The superintendent also reported that he had conferred with each staff member who might have a change in employ-

ment status or assignment for the year and had discussed the matter with the president of the Lake-Lehman Education Association, Mrs. Marilyn Glogowski.

Borchetta also reported that the district cannot maintain the status quo because of the loss of anticipated state aid, loss of funding for the TELLS program, and the flattening of taxable assessed evaluation.

Dr. Borchetta also reported that all children in grades one through three received instruction on school bus safety through the use of an eight-minute video followed by a question and answer period. It

is the intent of the administration to meet with children in grades four through six on bus safety at the beginning of the next school year.

In other action the board approved a high school trip to England and France from March 29 to April 7, 1991, with no cost to the school district. The normal costs to the district would be teacher substitute and chaperone pay.

A list of volunteer staff members was approved to sponsor summer activities including Rodger Bearde, basketball; Richard Gorgone, Robert Langan, conditioning club; John Baranowski, Charles James,

Stanley Scott, boys volleyball; Robert Rogers, Stephanie Kukosky, girls volleyball; Phillip Lipski, Thomas Williams, wrestling; Jonathon Pinenio, elementary instrumental music; and Edward Richards, band.

The list of seniors for graduation was approved by the board contingent upon satisfactory completion of all academic requirements.

Michelle Richardson, junior, was congratulated for her selection as a winner in the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Agricultural Sciences at Penn State University Park, July 1 to August 4.

Budget

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budgeted \$285,000 in the 1989-1990 year. I don't feel we were appraised of that fact during the year.

Dr. Borchetta replied that the board had been appraised of the real estate assessment, West Side Vo-Tech and transportation costs.

"The board was never told that it was \$92,000 more for transportation," said Joseph "Red" Jones.

"I don't think any of us knew there was a \$282,000 deficit," Presper said. "I think in the future, the board should be given a running total at our meetings. We should have a precise handle on where we are."

Presper also said he thought there was an overemphasis on cutting academic items with which he didn't agree. Fritzen then told the members that the meeting was not scheduled to discuss items they had gone over before, but to come up with some creative ideas.

"Would it be advantageous to ask the administration to come to the next meeting with a budget two-to-four mills below this budget and one two-to-four mills above this one?" asked Fritzen.

Dr. Borchetta then refused to go below the present budget, but said he would be willing to increase it.

Board member Marc Elgaway said he thought the proposed budget was acceptable. "I believe the budget is the best balance of education as possibly can be under the circumstances. One year will not affect the district's program. Long hours have been put into balancing the budget and I appreciate the work that has gone into it."

Following the meeting, Presper said he thought the time spent in the meeting was wasted.

"Dr. Borchetta alluded to short-falls in the budget periodically but not \$325,000," Presper added. "When things are tight you cut things and in my opinion, academics have priority. In the cuts pro-

posed there are very few cuts on extra-curricular activities. I believe the cuts should be fairly balanced when money is tight.

"Is it more important to have computers or a golf team or junior high soccer? At the end of four years of sports, kids go into menial jobs. I think there are very few who are athletic scholars. My personal opinion, except for the Ivy League Schools, colleges exploit students. I don't think the cuts are balanced. Cutting personnel is not good either," Presper concluded.

Fritzen said the meetings are never a waste of time. "I was trying to stimulate discussion and ideas; it's too early to come together in agreement. If we didn't have a meeting, everyone would say we should have had one."

"By the May 21 meeting we should know if there are any new revenues. My request to Dr. Borchetta was to increase the millage. I am not happy with the budget he presented."

"When I told the members I wanted some creative suggestions, I was trying to get them away from going over the items we had hashed

and re-hashed. If there was anything we hadn't looked at or anything we missed to bring it up. The big question is 'Are you willing to go with 14 mills or go higher?'" Fritzen concluded.

Board member Liz Sichler said she expected more discussion. "I had seen dollars in cuts before, but not specifics, I wanted to know what programs were affected. That is why I was asking questions."

"I am not in favor of cutting extra-curricular activities, maybe some supplies. I don't agree with the percentages given for the late bus runs either. Parents came to me afterwards and said more children are taking the bus. The late bus runs benefit the children who need the bus in order to participate."

"I also want to know what sup-

plies are being cut because I won't vote to cut if I don't know what is being cut," Sichler ended.

Jones said he believed Dr. Presper wanted to equalize the budget. "If we cut curriculum, cut the same in extra-curriculum," Jones said. "I don't think 3 percent, \$330,000 of an \$11,301,000 budget is too high, and for some of the extra-curricular items we get reimbursement from the state."

"My philosophy is if we don't give the kids a chance to participate in extra-curricular activities then don't have the activities. Without the late bus run many of the kids can't take part."

"In my opinion Tuesday's budget meeting was a waste of time. We can't vote for a tentative budget until we get in the middle or late May. Things may change. The tax assessment may be higher or the earned income tax may be higher. And we don't know what the General Assembly will do," Jones said. "When we were reclassified into the 2% category it made it tough. It's too early to decide what to cut, in my opinion."

Directors complained that they had not been told about cost overruns

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This week's road repairs

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Luzerne County Maintenance Manager, Matthew R. Collura, has announced the following road work schedule for the week of May 15:
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Twp.
DRAINAGE REPAIR - Overbrook Ave. in Dallas Twp.; Mt. Olivet Rd. in Kingston Twp.
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