

Funding changes leave districts asking 'What if?'

BY CHARLOTTE A. WILLIAMS
Business Manager

A budget is defined as a summary of probable income and expenditures for a given period. The "what if" question in the Dallas School District budgetary process of forecasting receipts and expenditures for 1991-92 is asked of the school funding changes proposed in Governor Robert P. Casey's new state budget.

The Governor's budget calls for an increase of more than \$200 million over the current year for funding for public schools, but he has asked the General Assembly to pass legislation to revise the distribution of the nearly \$418 billion in funding for public schools.

Governor Casey believes the revised distribution system will address the equity issue in spending per pupil among the state's 501 school districts. The current funding distribution system has been used for several years.

The proposed changes in state funding distribution are Governor Casey's attempt to direct more assistance to less wealthy school districts since the fundings are adjusted by a measure of school district wealth known as the Market Value/Personal Income Aid Ratio.

This aid ratio along with the Weighted Average Daily Membership and the Factor for Educational Expense comprise the formula for the Basic Education Subsidy. Districts, such as Dallas, who have been in a declining en-

rollment trend have received a 2% minimum guarantee increase each year in the Basic Education Subsidy.

Historically, the state also funded 50% of the employer contribution for public school employees retirement and Social Security, with the local school district contributing an equal amount. By distributing the state's share of these funds through the subsidy formula as proposed, more money will be sent to the less wealthy school district.

The state aid to the wealthier and minimum guarantee districts will be less than the equal share historically paid by the state. Dallas' increase will be "held harmless" for 1991-92 at a 1% increase

regular classroom. Governor Casey's proposal established a fixed dollar allocation based on the average number of students eligible for special education.

This proposed plan limits the funding obligations of the state, requiring the local districts to supply the necessary funds to insure compliance with state mandates for special education.

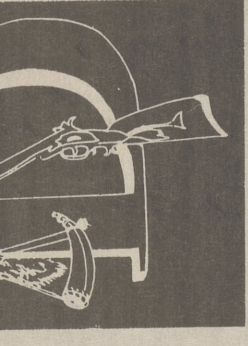
As we follow the state budget debate, we will try to make budgetary decisions that will keep the Dallas School District fiscally sound and healthy until the "what if" questions have been answered at the state level.

The present budget proposal of the Governor does not favor the Dallas School District.

for all three funding sources combined. This proposed distribution will reduce state revenues in the Dallas School District budget by shifting state government's funding obligation for retirement and social security from equal partners with Dallas to the local district assuming more of the responsibility for paying employer costs of social security and retirement.

The proposed increase over the guaranteed base in funding for 1992-93 is zero unless the variables in the formula change significantly for Dallas.

Dramatic changes are also proposed in the Governor's budget in the support of special education. Currently, the state pays for the costs of special education that are in addition to those of a child in the



Dallas, PA

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The Dallas Reporter

A Newsletter for the residents and friends of the Dallas School District

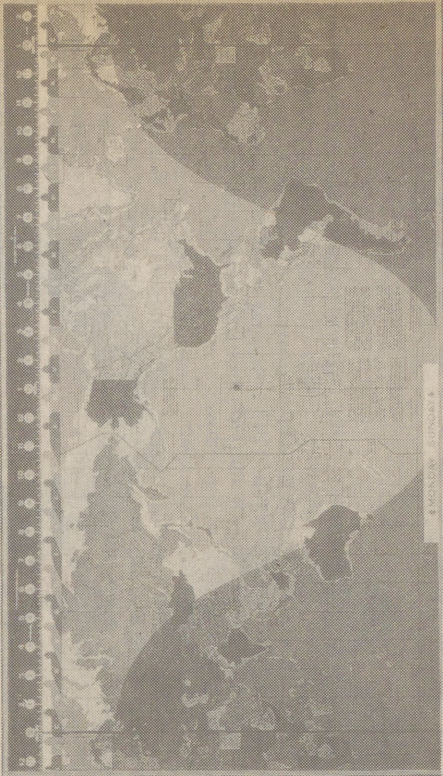
Argento remembered and honored as outstanding teacher at Westmoreland

In honor of Miss Santina Argento, the Westmoreland Staff, the Dallas Elementary and many families in the community have contributed in various ways to honor her as an outstanding former teacher at Westmoreland.

The Westmoreland P.T.O. Executive Board commissioned Mr. Cruz Olivarez, an active member of the P.T.O., to construct a display case. This beautifully handcrafted case, which was financed by the entire P.T.O. body, was presented to Westmoreland at the November P.T.O. meeting. Trophies and Awards is the company responsible for the finely detailed engraved plaque denoting the case's purpose, as a memorial to Miss Argento.

Many members of the community and the Dallas Elementary staff contributed to the purchase of reference books that have been placed in the building library. Inside the front cover of each book will be placed a gold seal honoring Miss Argento.

The staff of Westmoreland Elementary School has favored the purchase of a unique and lasting memorial, the world's first global time indicator called Geochron. Unlike conventional time pieces, can be found in the northeast.



WORLD TIME - A Geochron, similar to the one pictured, is being considered for purchase at the Westmoreland Elementary School. The unique time piece would be purchased in honor of the memory of Santina Argento.

Ronald Reagan, Henry Kissinger, Frank Sinatra, and Mikhail Gorbachev are just a few of the celebrities who own one of these unique clocks.

In considering the purchase of this memorial, the Westmoreland staff wanted the item to reflect an educational value, along with the symbolic representation that Miss Argento's educational contributions to the Dallas School District will be remembered for all time.

**Dallas School District
Administration Offices
Church Street,
Dallas, PA 18612**

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Dallas School District School Calendar 1990-91

Last Day For Pupils June 11

Spring Break
Memorial Day April 2
May 27

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	②	3	4	5			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								

- Teacher In-Service
- Early Dismissal
- End Marking Period
- Schools Closed
- Report Cards
- Conferences
- Secondary Report Card Issue Dates Set By Principals

Changes in school calendar for the 1990-91 school year

The Dallas School District 1990-91 School calendar indicates:

Should schools be closed on scheduled pupil days due to snow or emergency conditions prior to March 27, 1991, the scheduled spring break will be used as make-up days according to the listed SNOW EMERGENCY DAYS.

SNOW EMERGENCY DAYS

USED January 11, 1991

Therefore, this school day, January 11, 1991, will be made up on April 3, 1991.

If schools are closed prior to March 28, 1991 due to the use of a snow/emergency day, April 2, 1991 will be used as the make up day. If there are no snow/emergency days used, April 2, 1991 will be scheduled as part of the spring break. There will be no school for students.

Any additional snow/emergency days used after April 2, 1991, will be made up at the end of the school year.

At the Regular Board Meeting of March 11, 1991, the Board of School Directors passed a resolution which included additional calendar changes.

Please note the following calendar changes:

- May 24, 1991 has been changed from a Teacher In-Service Day to a STUDENT SCHOOL DAY.
- June 11, 1991 will be the LAST STUDENT DAY of school.
- June 12, 1991 will be a Teacher In-Service Day (Department Day).

Shakespeare comedy set for April 5,6

Dallas High School will present William Shakespeare's comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream on April 5 and 6 at 8:00 P.M. in the high school auditorium.

The play, one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, is especially appropriate for spring since it captures a lighthearted spirit that combines fantasy and folklore, love and laughter, and slapstick madness and lulling verse.

Shakespeare weaves together three separate plot elements: the wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta and the love story of Lysander, Hermia, Demetrius, and Helena; the quarrel between Oberon and Titania and the activities of Puck and the fairy Kingdom; and the confusion and comedy of the "rude mechanicals," as they prepare a play to be presented at the wedding.

Tickets for the Friday and Saturday night performances are \$2.00 and can be obtained at the door.

Bell to speak at Memorial Day program

The senior high school will be welcoming Mr. Harrison Bell for an assembly on May 30.

The internationally recognized military veteran and decorated hero will explain to the Dallas students his experiences in war and his patriotic commitment to the United States.

Mr. Bell will include in his remarks his analysis of the military efforts in the Middle East. He will conclude the assembly by answering questions presented by members of the audience.

Word processing lab opens to high school students and staff

The high school is proud to announce the opening of the Word Processing Laboratory, fully net-worked and equipped with WordPerfect. A training session for the English Department at the high school was held on January 25, after which the teachers began the training of their students for use of the lab.

Though the lab is used primarily by students with assignments from their teachers of English, all students needing to process words into documents for any curricular area are welcome. Students have prepared laboratory reports for science classes, and completed research papers for their social studies teachers.

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LEARN holds teachers conference

The Local Education Action Resource Network (LEARN), representing the colleges and universities in Luzerne County, and the school districts in Intermediate Unit #18, sponsored a day-long conference for all teachers K through U (4,000-4,200 educators) on February 15, 1991.

The theme of the conference was "Inventing the Future: Teaching and Learning in an Information Age." The objectives of the conference were: bringing people together to improve students learning through new approaches in teaching, including those provided by new technology; addressing issues of national significance as they pertain to our regional situation; bringing teachers and administrators together to discuss common challenges in teaching and learning; motivating educators and learners and building a working partnership between schools and higher education.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Samuel D. Proctor. He addressed both of his sessions on professional-ism in the field of education. Judging from the standing ovations he received, conference attendees were unanimously in agreement with Dr. Proctor's message.

Talented Educators Are Children's Hope

National Teacher Day May 7, 1991

New additions enhance the atmosphere at the senior high

The classrooms are under the supervision of staff members new to the senior high school, though Rybak is teaching ninth grade science in the new science laboratory. Mr. George Dombek teaches English, and Mr. John Johnson teaches history to the ninth grade students in new classrooms. Mr. John Baur, though not in a new classroom, is teaching his ninth grade students of mathematics in a classroom made available to him by virtue of the new addition. Mr. Rybak, Mr. Dombek, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Baur join the high school instructional staff after many years of service to Dallas students in the Dallas Middle School/Junior High School.

The remaining classroom is the instructional area of Ms. Bobbie Shurnicki who teachers Dallas students with special needs. Ms. Shurnicki, an employee of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit #18, has served Dallas students in a variety of ways over the years, and now joins the Dallas staff replacing Mrs. Mary Kratz who is on approved leave from her instructional responsibilities.

All of these changes at the high school provide convenient, modern, and comfortable instructional facilities for Dallas students.

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