

Taxes

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cause? Let them come forward." Dallas Education Association (the teachers' union) president William Wagner, a resident of Harveys Lake, requested information on the curtailment of the athletic budget and student activities.

"All athletic programs will continue as they are," Superintendent of Schools Gerald Wycallis explained. "Reduction in expenditures will apply to conferences and trips, vocational education, guidance counseling, curriculum supplies, staff development, and a cut in the amount of money for athletic supplies."

Gerri Kowalski asked the board about long range plans. "I asked about long range planning several years ago," she said. "And I haven't seen any. I'm losing faith in everyone. I'd also like to know who is going to oversee the teachers," she asked.

Wycallis told Kowalski that no program is ending and no advanced placement classes will be discontinued.

Board member Clarence Michael said that parents wanted the district to prepare students for the 21st century so the board invested money in computers the parents wanted.

"We have state-of-the-art computers in eighth grade and we also developed the Middle School. We had a successful Scholarship Bowl and good College Board scores," Michael said. "We may cut economics to a degree but we are not going to cut curriculum," Michael said.

"We are driven by forces beyond our control," said Litz.

Michael stated that the district had to pick up an extra four and a half mills for education no longer funded by the state.

Cleary repeated that the board was not cutting any curriculum, that all courses listed would continue to exist.

In answer to questions about chorus asked by Florence Sherwood, music and choral teacher who is going on sabbatical, Wycallis explained that chorus would be at senior high but probably not at the Middle School.

Wycallis also explained that the district could not increase the earned income tax since that could only be done under home rule.

In response to statements that the district had fired 12 teachers, chairman Litz repeatedly told

questioners that the board was not firing any teachers and Wycallis explained that with the 15-mill increase art and band would be continued.

Wycallis also told teachers and parents both that the music program in the elementary schools would be untouched and at the Middle School, eighth and ninth would continue to have music two times a week and seventh grade at some time each week.

Few in the audience asked about academic questions but repeated the same questions about art, music and home economics.

Litz tried to explain that if the board passed a 22-mill budget this year, next year there would be another 20 to 22-mill increase.

But board member Thomas Stitzer defended the higher millage. "I'm proud that I voted for the 22-mill budget," said Stitzer.

"It could be 22 mills this year and 30 mills next year," responded Cleary.

Board member John George said he felt taxes should be controlled. "I'm retired and have spent a lot of time in restaurants and around town and I have never found a person in favor of an increase in taxes."

Landon returns from Persian Gulf duty

Litz had opened the meeting by welcoming home Tom Landon, a board member who recently returned home from serving in Desert Storm. He then told the audience that the meeting was not a budget meeting but the board's regular monthly committee of the whole meeting which was being held prior to the June 10 board meeting. Litz stated, however, that following the items on the agenda, the meeting would be open for comments or questions.

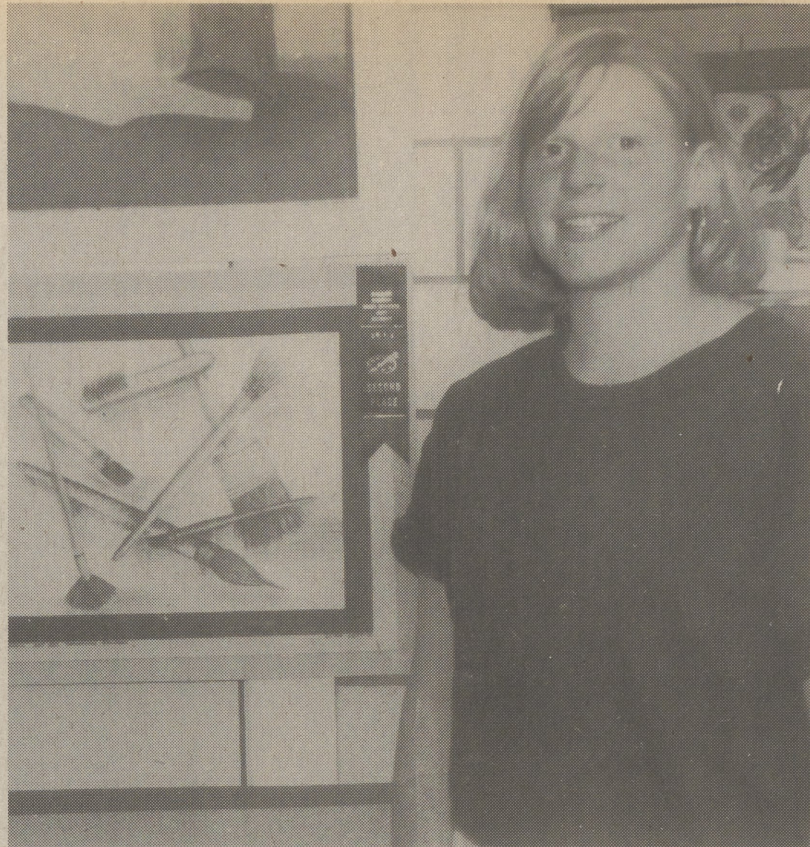
The board set June 29, 7 p.m., as the date for passing the final budget.

Wycallis also announced that there would be early dismissal the final two days of school, June 10 and June 11. Secondary schools will be dismissed at 1 p.m. and elementary schools at 2 p.m.

Stitzer reported that the kindergarten committee had held several meetings and visited several districts holding all-day kindergarten but had to put the full day kindergarten on hold because of the budget. "We will try again next year," said Stitzer.

Board member John Cleary also moved to approve the alteration of certain programs and authorize the administration to submit the plans for approval to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The motion made by Cleary and seconded by James Richardson also passed by a 5-3 vote with the same directors voting no.

Approximately 50 persons, the majority of them teachers of the district, attended the meeting, many urging the board to increase millage by at least 22 mills.



Prize winner

Liza Lettie won a prize at the recent Dallas High School art awards.

Lehman

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Wyoming Valley. We have no fund balance to fall back on. I believe, however, there are some items which need to be addressed before the adoption of the final budget," Presper continued.

"We have a very large extra-curricular program which is great for our students but it is now becoming a millstone around our neck. One way to resolve it is a student activity fee imposed according to a family's income level. Everybody should share in funding these programs."

"The time has also come to look at the benefits given to teachers to allow their children to attend Lake-Lehman free of charge. We also need to look at our home economics programs, driver education and our foreign language programs. It's also unpalatable to vote for a \$4,500 sports item when we can't afford it," Presper concluded.

Board member Elizabeth Sichter also stated, "I am not comfortable with the 25-mill budget for a number of reasons. I believe it is a crime the cuts the Governor has made in funding education. It is also criminal what he has done to property owners. He has no sense of value about education. He is not fair to persons on fixed incomes nor to young families," she said.

Chairman of the board Tom Williams blamed the steep increase on the state. "The 25-mill increase is due in a large way to the Commonwealth's financial problems and the board's firm desire to avoid taking a step backwards in the quality of the district's programs."

"We considered staffing cuts, but unlike many of the districts, our staffing is relatively lean. It is not uncommon for our classes to have 28 to 32 students which is recognized to be somewhat high and has been a concern of teachers and parents. Our teachers are also

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX MILLAGE 1980-81 through 1991-92		
Budget Year	Millage	% Inc.
1980-81	91	0
1981-82	91	0
1982-83	98	7.7
1983-84	107	9.2
1984-85	113	5.6
1985-86	113	0.0
1986-87	118	4.4
1987-88	123	4.2
1988-89	128	4.1
1989-90	133	3.9
1990-91	151	10.5
1991-92*	176	16.6

* Proposed

required to perform other duties which in total take seven out of the eight class periods daily, leaving only one for preparation time.

Williams said the district has taken almost \$800,000 out of the budget to save money.

Each mill of taxes in the Lake-Lehman district raises approximately \$29,900.

Golf

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"I must stress that nothing is firm," he said. "I have 40 acres but I haven't sold any and don't know if I will."

Sources familiar with the land say the properties run along Market Street and Route 118.

Approximately 100 acres of that belongs to Penn Gas Developers, a sister company of Pennsylvania Gas and Water (PG&W). A spokesman for the company confirmed the negotiations but would not comment on the progress of the talks.

"Right now we are in negotiations," said PG&W spokesman Guy Beh. "I can't say what is going on or what the land would be used for, just that we have been contacted about a possible sale."

The Realtor handling the negotiations for PG&W did not return calls concerning the sale.

Others owning land that is thought to be under consideration include the Voitek family which owns 100 acres in that area. A small piece of land near the Old Cook Farm currently owned by Richard Hall is also reportedly being considered.

Maslow remained tight-lipped about the situation. "It would be premature to comment on anything at this time," he said through a spokesperson.

Despite the lack of official information, many residents in the township are aware of the negotiations. "This has been going on for some time and there is a lot of talk going on about it," said one resident close to the talks.

Township officials say they

cannot comment on the situation because of lack of information. "I have been approached about the situation but to my knowledge nothing has been finalized," said township zoning officer Barbara Simms. She would not identify who approached her saying "...it would not be proper to do so at this time."

There has been some speculation the course could be built on 450 acres of land known as Hayfield Farms near the Penn State Wilkes-Barre campus.

Jack Conyngham Sr., one of the owners of the land, would not provide much information on that theory. "I don't want to say very much" Conyngham said on Monday. "There has been interest expressed in the past about putting a golf course on the land but there is a question of suitability because so much could be classified as wetlands."

Conyngham said it would be pure speculation to say where the course would be built. "I'm not getting excited because we've been talking on and off with people for more than five years," he said. "I'll get excited when I see the money on the table."

Despite reports that Hayfield Farms may be purchased, many residents believe the course will be built on land between Market St. and the Lehman Golf Course.

Residents have seen crews from Killam Associates, an engineering firm from Kingston, surveying the properties along that stretch of land. A spokesman for Killam Associates refused to comment on the situation.

15 mill tax hike ok'd in Dallas district

By CHARLOT M. DENMON Staff Writer

Facing declining state assistance, the Dallas School Board approved a tentative budget of \$14,703,464 for the 1991-92 school year at a special meeting of the board May 28. The budget calls for increasing property taxes to 156 mills, 15 mills higher than the present 141 mills. The plan was approved by a 5-3 vote with members John George, Ellen Nagy and Thomas Stitzer voting against the proposed increase.

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Pictured above - Dallas Senior Steve Oliver with proud parents - Tom and Mary Oliver

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LUZERNE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS URGE YOU TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD CONCERNING OUR SOCIAL SERVICES YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Public Hearings are scheduled on (a) Monday, June 10, 1991 at the Hazle Elementary School, 1400 West 23rd Street, Hazleton, PA and (b) Wednesday, June 12, 1991 at the Luzerne County Community College, Conference Center, Nanticoke, PA. These forums provide all Luzerne County residents an opportunity to hear and present testimony regarding the following social services

- Area Agency on Aging
- Children & Youth Services
- Drug & Alcohol Programs
- Mental Retardation Services
- Human Services Development Fund
- Homeless Assistance Programs
- Child Care & Development Block Grant
- Single Point of Contact (S.P.O.C.) / Family Support Act of 1988
- Transportation Department Services

Testimony is encouraged from consumers, families of consumers, advocacy groups and all others interested in Luzerne County's human services' system.
Written testimony will be accepted until June 28, 1991 at the Luzerne County Office of Human Services, 111 North Pennsylvania Blvd., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. Due to time constraints, these will be the only coordinated hearings scheduled in Luzerne County.