

Hearing

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"As teachers we do not attempt to decide what should be the board's decision. We do not profess to be attorneys, judges or juries but as informed educators and teachers we believe society can be cured through a good education programs," Wagner said.

"It's difficult to understand why education takes a back seat, that only education takes the cuts. The curtailment of chorus, band and DEAL (in-school suspension) will have an effect on education.

"Just imagine meeting once a year on social security, medicare or medicaid," read Wagner. "Imagine what it would be like if all people under 45 had the option to drop out of paying social security and just imagine what education would be if it were given the attention the other programs mentioned get. We just ask that the board do the right thing."

Joseph Funke, of Lehman Avenue, Dallas, told the board that what Wagner said sounded great, but that higher taxes would be unbearable for some residents.

"Wagner is here to address people who are on social security or fixed incomes. What would these people do without social security. I believe those things not positively important should be eliminated. The principals and supervisors should go over the entire budget and cut what they can.

"Don't lose sight of the fact that there are people in the community who can't afford higher increases," Funke concluded.

School board chairman Litz explained that the board had gone over the budget with a close eye and cut out many items and the proposed budget was a tight one.

Wilma Geffert of Dallas addressed the board, citing statistics she said she had gathered about the proposed budget. She noted that there were 2,436 students in kindergarten through 12th grade in the Dallas District which at the budget figure of \$14,700,000 averaged \$6,000 per child.

When she was corrected by Wycallis that her figure of 199 teachers was incorrect, Mrs. Geffert corrected her figure to 149 teachers which averages approximately 16 students to a teacher.

Geffert went on to list the salary and benefit programs the district's teachers receive, seemingly attempting to point out that they are well-compensated for their work.

"We have some very good teachers in the district," said Mrs. Geffert. "But I believe teachers should be evaluated regularly."

In a response to a statement that politics have entered into the hiring of teachers in the district, Litz said that to his knowledge since he has been on the board he knows of no politics involved, that the best teacher is hired.

Paul Priebe of Dallas asked the board the amount figured into the 1991-1992 budget for teachers' salaries and what other benefits the teachers received. Wycallis replied that he could not give him that information since the teachers are in negotiations.

Priebe also asked if the 2,436 student population was coming down and if the number of teachers were being decreased. Wycallis stated that in 1972 the district had 4,200 students which is down 1,764 as of the end of the 1990-91 school year. He also said that some teachers who retired have not been replaced but did not say how many. He also listed the benefits which were very similar to those enumerated by Mrs. Geffert.

Wycallis stated that 69% of the budget goes into salaries to which he said that with the lines in the unemployment offices today, and the banks, businesses and other industries laying off employees due to the economic situation, the budget should be curtailed.

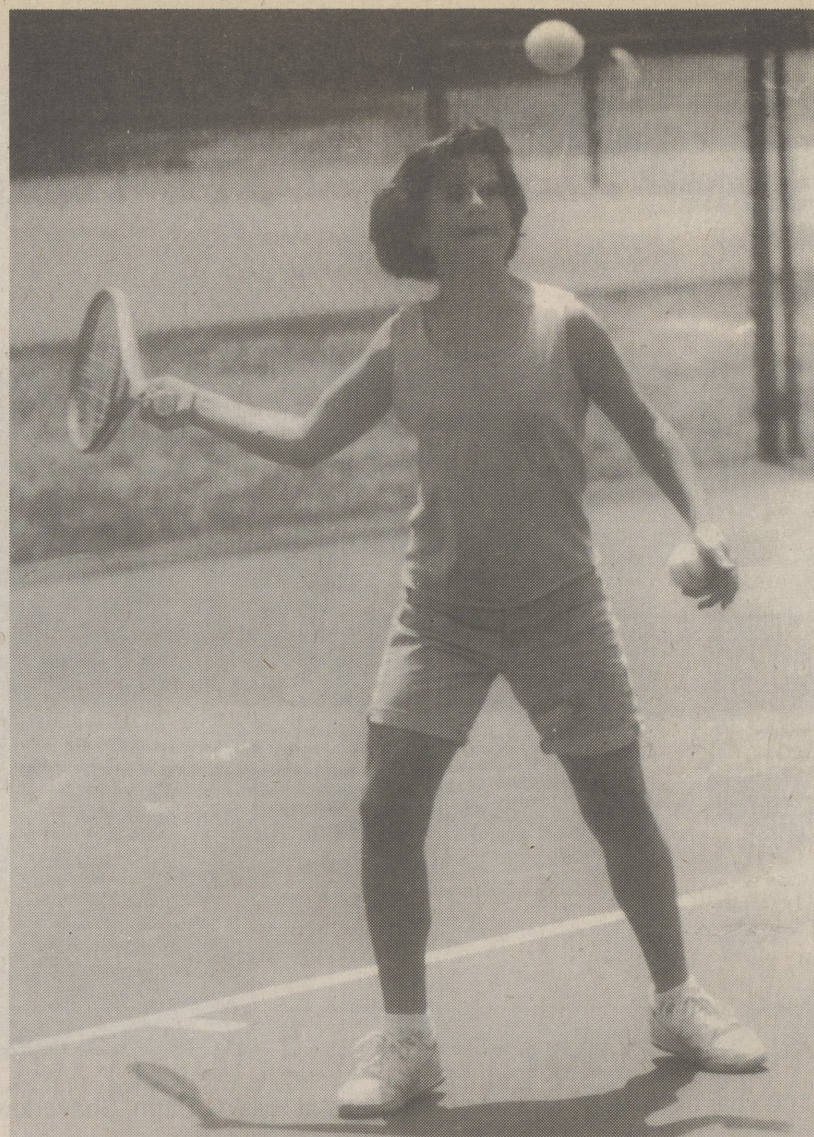
Ed Palks of Shavertown told the board his concern was that the two persons being moved from the principal's offices back to the classroom might create a discipline problem and if a problem occurred would some parent have the right to sue.

Mrs. Buda, who served a year as an administrative in the senior high school, said she wanted to go on record that while serving as an intern she also taught two classes.

Other residents in the audience spoke on behalf of the chorus program while a resident of Dallas suggested that the board eliminate sports programs and the coaches from those programs that don't pay for themselves.

Wycallis explained that none of the sports programs are self-supporting.

Florence Sherwood, a music teacher who is going on a year's sabbatical leave, pleaded that the district keep the chorus program because it means so much to some of the students. Her concern is that if there is no chorus, students cannot participate in District or Regional Chorus.



KEEPING AN EYE ON THE BALL - Rebecca Janerich, 11, of Shavertown enjoys a game of tennis at the Jewish Community Center Holiday House in Idetown. This is Janerich's fourth year and the camp where she takes part in a wide variety of activities. (Post Photo/Rich Johnson)

Jewish Community Center celebrates 60 years of sending children to camp

By RICH JOHNSON
Staff Writer

It may be the best kept secret in the Back Mountain. This year nearly 300 youngsters will spend eight weeks enjoying themselves at the Jewish Community Center Holiday House in Idetown.

This is the 60th year that the JCC camp is being held in Idetown and organizers say it is one of the best camps in the area.

"We are continually rising in attendance and the campers and staff are coming back year after year, so they must be satisfied," said camp director Rick Evans.

The camp is open to children ages 3-15 whose families are members of the Wilkes-Barre Jewish Community Center.

During the eight week camp the children are taught a number of activities including archery, swimming, tennis, cooking, soccer, softball, t-ball, whiffle ball, music, cultural activities, dance, nature, and arts and crafts.

Evans said that the wide variety of activities and the atmosphere in which the children are taught contributes to the success of the camp.

"The staff and the community have really made this successful," said Evans. "There is a lot for the children to do and the staff takes a lot of pride in making sure the children learn but also have a good time."

There is a lot of tradition involved with the center and that has also contributed to the continued success of the camp.

"This is a family oriented camp," said Evans. "Parents feel secure knowing that the children are here during the summer."

Evans said that many of the staff counselors were campers when they were younger.

"The camp is at the age now when the campers from 30 years ago are now sending their kids to camp," said Evans. "Also, many of the staff personnel enjoyed the camp so much they are coming back to give something back to the camp."

This family tradition of attending the camp reaches over long distances. This year a family in Denver has sent one child because her parents had attended when they were younger.

"The family still is involved with the Wilkes-Barre JCC and they felt it was important to have the girl experience the fun at the camp," said Evans.

Staff members agree that the camp has a rich tradition behind it. Courtney Butler of Shavertown is spending her second year teaching swimming at the camp. The junior at Kings College said she attended the camp as a child and remembered the fun she had.

"I loved it," said Butler. "In fourth grade I spent the summer here and now that I have a chance to help

some of the kids I decided to do it. Butler spends most of her day helping children of all ages learn to swim and says she gets satisfaction from working with the campers.

"It is unique. I have always loved kids and this was a new direction for me to take in dealing with them," said Butler.

Liza Rosenthal of Dallas is another staff member who loves working with kids. "This is my fourth year here and it seems to get better all the time," she said.

Rosenthal teaches tennis to the campers and finds it a challenge. "The younger kids don't always have a long attention span so you sometimes have to improvise to get your message across," said Rosenthal.

Both counselors say they look forward to working at the camp and think they may be back again next year.

Many programs are scheduled throughout the summer. To celebrate the 60th anniversary there will be parents days and also different programs performed by the children.

Also, some of the older campers will be taking part in travel camps. One group is scheduled to spend a week in the Virginia-Baltimore area. While others will visit New Jersey and Canada.

The camp will run weekdays through August 16.

Dallas

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he was interested in some options with the 17 mills proposal.

"In the sports program we furloughed a teacher and knocked out some extra-curricular activities. If 17 mills brings back one teacher, I believe the first one should be Paul Brown."

Board member Richardson asked, "If we're going to go to 17 why not make it 18 mills? I'm for 15 mills but I don't want a millage that will do that."

In the course of the evening, motions were made for 15mills, 17, 19, 15, 16, 17, 17, 15, and 17 again before the final vote.

During the two-hour meeting, the board took two short intermissions for clarification while the crowd of approximately 50 persons, most of them teachers, waited patiently.

Prior to the final vote Ellen Nagy said, "The board has agonized over this budget for weeks. It's a very emotional subject. It's a sad day. Since I have been on the board a lot of good things have happened in the district, some outstanding programs, and other things too numerous to mention.

"The board needs to look at long term plans, and not only our students and staff but we have to look out at the community. We have to think of them. I deeply fear that we may have a tax revolt in Pennsylvania as there was in New Jersey," Nagy said.

"We have to think of those in our district who are earning only \$15,000 or \$20,000 annually or \$5 per hour. We can't cut our administrators from eight to five because we need to look at curriculum, and the principals and Mr. Wycallis don't have the time. We have to start curtailing programs and if we have to cut, I would rather cut music, phys ed or health than English, math or science and those programs positively needed for entrance into higher education," Nagy concluded.

Following one round of voting, Cleary suggested each member state the programs they would prefer keeping. Physical education appeared most favored with at least four stipulating the program, three voted for DEAL (in-school suspension) and three for staff development.

The 17 mill increase finally passed when board member George stated he would vote without requesting a special stipulation on teachers brought back.

In closing Nagy stated, "I would like to take this opportunity to commend our board chairman, John Litz for the cool and calm way in which he handled what could have been a disorganized meeting. He acted with great composure and injected the right humor when needed. I'd like the people who voted against Mr. Litz in the primary to know that, because he was not re-elected and will not be on the board after December."

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Lake-Lehman

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extra-curricular system with parents paying according to income, but it didn't go through."

Presper also said he was surprised that he received no phone calls from the public about the budget. "No one questioned it nor did anyone call to say they understood." He also criticized taxpayers for not showing any interest in how the school program is run. "Many of them appear to be apathetic about attending meetings or asking questions," he said.

Board member Liz Sichler blamed Governor Casey for the increased millage due to the fact that he did not support increasing educational costs.

"When Casey took office there were millions of dollars in reserve but due to his mismanagement there is now a deficit. He gave too many large increases. A person is only as good as his word and his word is no good," Sichler said.

Bob Adams, a Sweet Valley resident, asked the board what had been done to cut extras in the budget. President Thomas Williams

said the board had cut as much as it could.

"Extra-curricular activities were cut \$20,000. A junior high secretary was moved to the Lake-Noxen School to replace Nancy Oliver who retired, leaving only one secretary at the junior high. All volume copy will be done in the central office to reduce costs. Special education classes have been transferred to the district to save money. Vacancies due to resignations have not been replaced, Lake-Noxen principal Robert Kunkle will take over for Lehman-Jackson principal Charles James when he goes on sabbatical in the second half of next school year and there will be no head teacher assigned to Ross Township," Williams explained.

A Mr. Lankwarden asked why the district did not hire non-union teachers. It was explained that it was illegal for the district to do that in Pennsylvania.

In other business, the board: Accepted the retirement of Roannah Shoemaker, secretarial employee of the district for 22 years.

Her retirement will be effective August 2, 1991.

Appointed all coaches and assistant coaches for the 1991-92 year with the exception of one assistant junior high girls hockey coach; assistant senior high soccer coach and a junior high soccer coach; junior high girls basketball coaches; junior high wrestling coach; and two junior high track coaches.

Edward Richard was appointed marching and concert band director and his wife Maureen Richards assistant band director.

Appointed legally certified tax collectors of each municipality at a commission as adopted by the board December 13, 1988, and H.A. Berkheimer Associates to collect earned income tax, occupational privilege tax, mechanical devices tax, and delinquent tax

ton, supervisor of curriculum and instruction \$48,929; John J. Oliver, high school principal, \$58,689; Frederick E. Sponenburg, asst. high school principal, \$46,410; Robert O. Roberts, junior high school principal, \$56,013; Charles C. James, elementary principal, \$52,335; Robert S. Kunkle, elementary principal, \$52,297; Karl B. Search, supervisor of buildings and grounds, \$30,800; Joyce Coolbaugh, director of food service, \$18,330 and Barbara A. Ross, transportation coordinator/accountant at \$26,667.

collector for unpaid per captias; and the Recorder of Deeds in Luzerne County and Wyoming County to collect real estate transfer tax.

The board also approved administrators salaries for 1991-1992 as follows: M. Stephen Bos-

Dallas High reunion meeting set for July 15

The 1962 graduating class of Dallas High School will hold a 30 year reunion meeting on Monday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. at The Farmer's Inn, Hillside Road, Chase. All classmates interested in helping plan our reunion are asked to attend.

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