

5% raise

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year teacher pay freeze, and the implementation of a merit-pay system for teachers at Dallas. Joe Kunec, vice president of the Taxpayers Forum said the group has about 6,000 supporters.

When Kunec introduced himself at the meeting as a teacher and taxpayer, he was greeted with boos from several of the teachers in the audience, as well as some applause. Kunec worked as an English teacher in Maryland until he retired in 1970.

Kunec blasted the current law pertaining to public employes and teachers' bargaining rights, Act 195, and called it the road to "chaos and confrontation."

"We the hard-pressed taxpayers feel Act 195 is a failed policy," said Kunec. "Nationwide, public school business is big business."

Kunec commended the board for taking a hard stand in negotiations.

Board member John George pointed out that when the county increased property taxes 25% several weeks ago, "there was not

one taxpayer there and I was extremely disappointed."

"We're like the army putting out the fires in Kuwait," said Kunec. "We'll put out this fire first."

"We will not be the one to raise your taxes," said William Wagner. "We've kept silent, we've kept negotiations where they should be."

I would ask you to be patient. In the end the truth will come out.

I think that you will look back at this and you will agree that it has been an awful lot of hype."

"I would like to publicly thank the teachers for continuing to work even though they don't have a contract," said school board president Ernest Ashbridge at the meeting's conclusion.

The teachers' and school board's negotiating committees will meet Thursday, March 12.

William Wagner said that while the union does have the authorization to strike, he doesn't "think it's any more likely than before."

In the event there would be a strike, both school board members and superintendent Wycallis

have said at previous meetings that the district does have a plan.

"I think we're very close (to an agreement)," said Wagner after the meeting. "I think we can work this out."

Regular school board business

During its regular meeting, the Dallas School board approved the following substitute employees for the 1991-92 school year:

Donna Kravabloski of Sweet Valley, Mark Koval of Shavertown, and Melanie Coscia of Trucksville.

Anthony Chiarucci was appointed assistant in charge of the Middle School Softball team for the 1991-92 school year. Brad Baker was named head track coach, and Samuel Jayne IV assistant track coach.

Board member John George reported that rumors that West Side Tech will drop its athletic program are just that, rumors. West Side Tech will keep its athletics, he said.



Dallas Youth Basketball holds a coaches dinner

The Dallas Youth Basketball program held a coaches dinner at the Dallas American Legion on March 5 to celebrate the end of a successful season. The organization, started 20 years ago with about 50 children participating, has grown to include 150 children on teams. Shown from left are, seated: Rich Jumper, Lynn Jumper, Jeff Wilt, Bonnie Habrack, Paul Jobson Sr., Paul D. Jobson Jr., director, Roger Bishop, Rob Blase, Jim Tucker, Bob Bohlander. Standing: Jim Valvano, Steve Withers, Bob Bayer, Tom Ash, Larry Lettie, Gerald Wycallis, Daniel Fetko, David Domzalski, Bernie Kovaleski, Bruce Kunkle, Joe Liparella, Ken Getz, Bill Race. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

Home values

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Another Realtor, who asked not to be identified, threw the letter in the garbage after it was received. "Most people that read it took offense to it. People that read it

didn't like it," said the Realtor.

Though Wagner's letter raises the specter of a teachers' strike, Wagner said Monday night that though the union has the authori-

zation to call a strike, a strike is not any more likely at this time than it has been in the past.

By Eric Foster

Strike law

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a bill, 727, changing the laws which allow school teacher strikes. The House made amendments to the bill and passed it in December of 1991. It now waits for action in the Senate Rules Committee.

State Rep. Phyllis Mundy calls the bill a tool to prevent strikes, and when there are strikes, make them shorter.

As amended by the House, the bill would require teachers to give 48 hours notice before a strike, and would ban selective strikes altogether.

However, a house amendment to the bill would also limit a school district's ability to replace striking teachers by stipulating that the

replacement teachers have to have been active in the district within the past year. That stipulation would prevent districts from bus-ing replacement teachers from across the state to teach class.

While admitting that the stipulation restricting hiring replacement teachers would be unpopular with some people, state Rep. Phyllis Mundy said that it was a necessary compromise needed to get enough votes to pass the bill.

"This was all part of negotiations," said Mundy, who supported the bill. "This bill is the first time in 21 years that makes any changes to Act 195."

Bill 727 also gives the Secretary of Education the authority to ask a judge to order an injunction to stop a strike. Mundy said. Under current law, only one of the parties involved, the teachers or school board, can request an injunction.

If the court does order an injunction to stop a strike, it has the authority to order the two sides to submit to binding arbitration based

on the last best offer of one of the two sides or a fact-finder's recommendations, either as packages, on an issue-by-issue basis, or with economic and non-economic issues dealt with separately.

Dallas teachers' union complains of unfair labor practices by school district

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

The Dallas Education Association (the teachers' union) has charged the Dallas School District with "unfair labor practices."

At the school board's Monday meeting, board member James Richardson announced that the Dallas Education Association has filed a complaint with the Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board.

The complaint, filed March 2, charges that the board's negotiations from January through February 4 were a "sham and surface bargaining designed not to reach an agreement, but designed either to cause a strike or to reduce the Complainant (the teachers' union) to total submission."

Richardson said the charge "galls me to no end," and he's got better things to do with his time than conduct sham nego-

tiations.

The unfair labor practices charge is a result of the board's reduction of its offer of \$2,450 in the fall of 1991, to 4% in February of 1992, or approximately \$1,600 for each teacher over a two or three-year period, whichever they preferred. The \$2,450 flat sum offer equaled an average increase of 6.32% in the first year, to a 5.61% increase in the third year of the offer.

Richardson said that the board also threatened to reduce that offer further to 3% if the 4% offer was not accepted, but never carried out that threat.

The Dallas teachers voted 113 to 14 to reject the 4% offer.

"We've reduced our original offer not without reason," said Richardson. "The economy has worsened."

Patricia Crawford, Secretary of the Labor Relations Board, said that the charge of unfair practices will first undergo a

preliminary review to determine whether there is an unfair practice assuming the allegations in the complaint are true.

If the complaint passes the preliminary review a hearing is held before a labor relations hearing officer to determine what actually happened.

Even if the hearing officer determines that an unfair practice did occur, the penalties are remedial, not punitive, said Crawford. Since the charge in this case is that the board's negotiators reduced their offer without good reason, they would be ordered to stop reducing their offers.

"Even if the remedy is not punitive, there is a certain onus about being found guilty of an unfair practice," said Crawford.

The Dallas Education Association's complaint had not been reviewed Tuesday, said Crawford.

She expected that new information might be available on the complaint in about a week.

Tainted soil

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mation operator was unable to find a telephone number for this company.

Previous owners included Michael and Ruth Slimak, who bought the property from the Luzerne Humane Association, who had operated an animal shelter there for several years.

Although the parcel's complicated history indicates the merg-

ing of several adjoining properties by a succession of owners dating back to 1859, no one knows who installed the oil tanks, when or why they were installed.

The supervisors said that DER is checking an adjoining 3/4-acre parcel containing a "Delta Oil" sign for more tanks and possible contamination. The township does not own this land.

Supervisor Walter Glogowski

said that the supervisors will discuss with solicitor Blythe Evans the possibility of holding the land's former owners liable for part of the cleanup costs.

Glogowski and Stager concluded, "We have inherited a very unfortunate situation. We are doing everything that we can to deal with it in the best way possible and to protect our citizens."

Penn State Wilkes-Barre Fourth Annual Baseball Clinics

in the NEW Athletics & Recreation Building on the Campus in Lehman

Saturday, March 21
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Ten- to Twelve-Year-Olds
\$30

Saturday, March 28
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Six- to Nine-Year-Olds
\$15

NEW: Softball Clinic - Saturday, March 28
Ten- to Sixteen-Year Old Players
1:00 - 4:00 p.m. - \$15

The bases are loaded with coaches and the Penn State Wilkes-Barre team to help you with pitching, catching, hitting and bunting, target throwing, fielding, and base running and sliding.

The Clinic Staff, under the direction of Coach Jack Monick, includes Mark Ambrose and Tom Wasilewski, former Major League pitchers; Steve Madrovsky, one of the top fast-pitch pitchers in Wyoming Valley; Al Cihocki, softball coach at Southern Columbia High School; Frank Galicki, former catcher, and principal of Dallas High School; and Chip Sorber, head baseball coach at Penn State Wilkes-Barre.



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