

New member

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the borough. Hogan said he has been attending council meetings for about 10 years. Although Hogan admits he has "a lot to learn," he says, "I think it will be nice to represent the borough and just learn how it all works."

The council also voted to hold public hearings to amend the zoning codes. That action came in response to complaints by several lakefront property owners that had established residences on the lakefront. These properties are currently governed by the rules for S-1 or Shoreline property instead of R-1 or Residential. Problems arise when minor repair or renovation work to homes in the S-1 district require the home owner to seek zoning and planning approval instead of the typical R-1 requirement of a zoning permit from the zoning officer.

Andrews explained these extra steps are "expensive and time-consuming" for the home owner. The hearings will be held over the next 180 days, with the end result being proposed changes to the existing zoning ordinances.

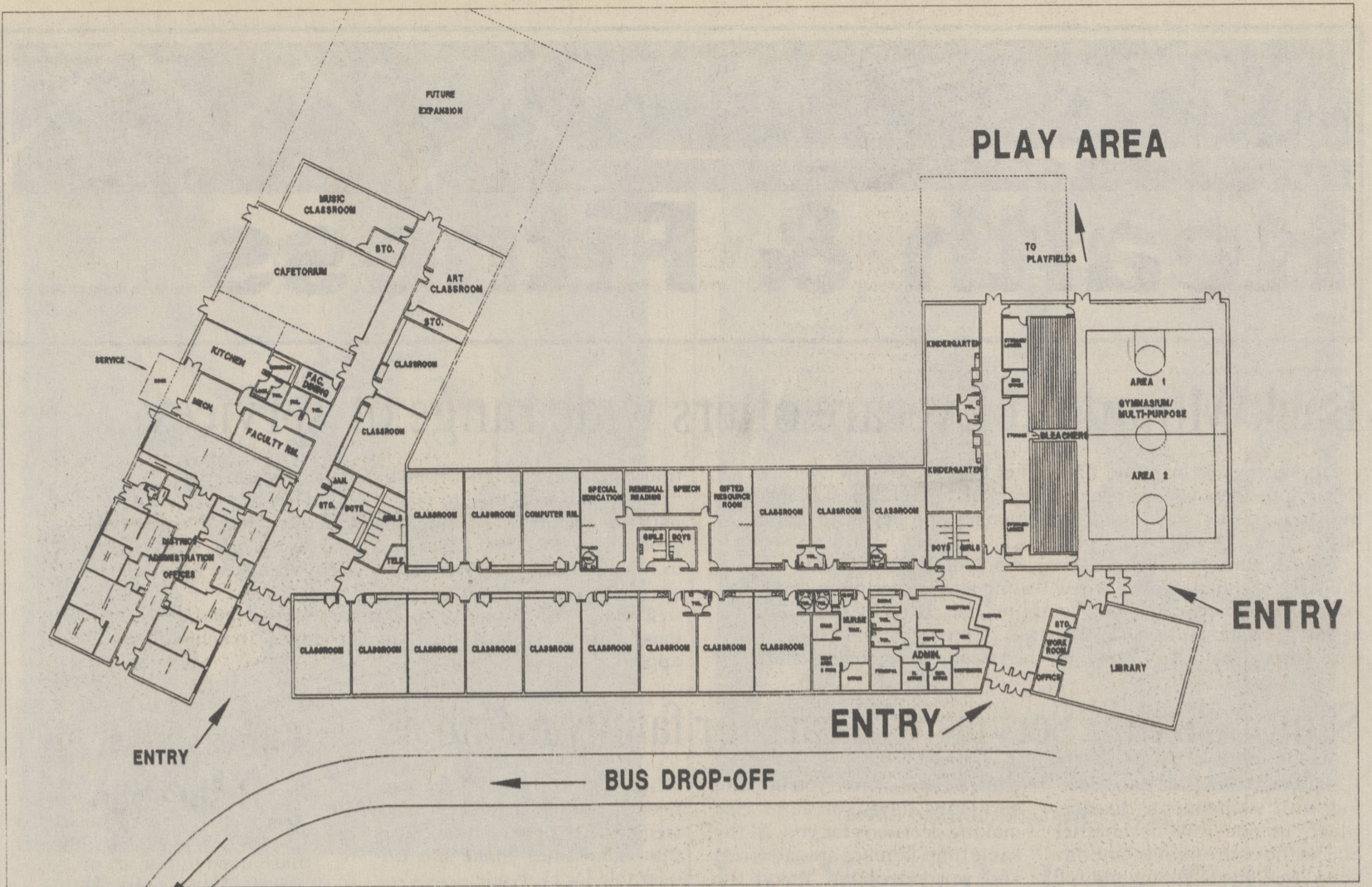
The board also voted to accept American Asphalt's bid for paving seven streets in the borough. The awarded bid was for \$40,301. The streets that will be paved are

Newhart, South, Perrago, Anderson, Kitchen, Benbar, and Firehouse.

Council announced a three-year police contract was signed. Chairperson Francis Kopko explained most of the terms remained the same from the last contract. A salary increase of 6.82 percent per year was approved, 20.45 percent over three years. The percentage increase was "not a significant deviation" from the last contract, Kopko said.

Also during the meeting, fire chief Frank Lutinski warned council that residents are being misled by another fire company soliciting funds. Lutinski said the Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company in Lehman Township has been soliciting borough residents. "They are misleading people into thinking they are serving people in the borough. They are not," he said.

Lutinski accused Jonathan R. Davis Fire Company of "lacking professional ethics." Lutinski asked to meet with borough council to discuss the situation. "People should be aware of who they are giving to," he said. He explained that borough residents are served by the Harveys Lake Hose Company No. 1.



Enrollment

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and live births reported by the Dept. of Health to project enrollment for next 10 years.

In the case of an elementary school where five years of enrollment data is not available for all the grades, the Dept. of Education looks at live births for the past five years instead.

"We try to determine retention rate and take the average retention rate of a particular group," said Michelle Haskins, press secretary of the Dept. of Education.

Haskins said there are many different reasons for decreases in enrollment, ranging from relocation of a large company to housing developments to a drop in live births.

Griffiths said the high school

will have approximately 850 students this coming year and will then drop under 800 over the next three years.

"I can't really speculate what would happen," said Griffiths, when asked how a lowered enrollment would effect the district. "It's not something that will be significant for us."

Due to increased enrollment, the school board is considering plans to attain classroom space within the high school without building additions. Paul Degillo of Quad Three Group presented a plan to the board that showed seven areas where the school could make internal changes and create three more classrooms. Degillo estimated the cost to be \$170,000.

Hearing will get to nuts and bolts of school plan

By KYLIE SHAFERKOEETTER
Post Staff

DALLAS - The next step in the process of building the new Gerald J. Wycallis Elementary School is the Act 34 public hearing, to be held June 30 at 7 p.m. at the district's administration offices.

Act 34 hearings apply to all new buildings and substantial additions and are set up to allow the public to ask questions, voice opinions or make suggestions.

Project description booklets are now available at the district's administration office. The booklet covers the need for the building, alternatives and options considered by the school board, special features, costs and their effect on the tax base.

According to Paul Degillo,

Quad Three Group architect, the administration, architects and financing committees will also give a series of presentations to the board.

The 48,000 sq. ft. K-5 school will be built on 12 acres of the district's 100-acre campus. It is a one-story building that will be constructed of a steel frame with a brick exterior. It is expected to be completed by the fall of 1999.

The building includes a multi-purpose room/gym, library and administration. The maximum project cost is \$8.6 million and the school will hold 500 students.

The new school is replacing the Westmoreland Elementary School in Trucksville, which was built in 1936. The board voted not to renovate the existing school or build a new one on the same lot.

"It's a good set of plans. The computer facilities are great and classroom size is more than ample."

Ernest Ashbridge
School board president

Ernest Ashbridge, school board president, said the meeting is a formality that sums up what the board has decided to do with the new school and how it will be paid for.

"Now the board has to be concerned with the type of construction materials that will be used," said Ashbridge of the board's main

final decisions. He said the board has been invited to observe a few other schools, such as the new K-8 school in Plains that the Quad Three Group designed, to see firsthand what materials are available.

Reese Finn, board member, does not think there will be much of a stir from the board's side. "The board has decided about the school. It would be counterproductive for the minority to keep griping," he said. "This will give the people an opportunity to voice their opinion about costs and puts a cap on total expenditures."

Ashbridge said he is very pleased with the current floor plan for the school. "It's a good set of plans. The computer facilities are great and classroom size is more than ample," he explained.

Ass't Super

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Intermediate Unit 18 as an instructional advisor for 13 years before that.

He grew up in Pittston and began his extensive academic career at King's College where he received a Bachelor of Arts in education and special education. He earned his masters in special education from Wilkes University, and earned a supervisor degree in special education from Bloomsburg University. Speziale earned his doctorate in educational technology with a minor in administration from Lehigh University.

Speziale was very pleased with the decision. "I was looking for professional growth and this is an opportunity to contribute to the district," he said when asked what prompted him to change the course of his career.

"We plan to utilize his talents in all areas of special needs students in the next several years,"

said Griffiths.

In other business, the board unanimously passed the \$20.9 million budget for the 1997-1998 school year. Despite a spending increase of 17.5 percent and the \$8.6 million price tag on the new elementary school, the district's millage will remain at 158 with no increase in taxes. Most of the additional spending is for non-operating items, including repairs at the high school and an increase in the fund reserve.

The board also approved the hiring of five full-time teachers in the district and one part-time. Melissa Rees will teach music/chorus at the senior high. Sue Holthaus will teach elementary/reading at the middle school. Matthew Stretanski and Kathryn Kupstas will teach Social Studies at the high school, Daniel Flynn will teach science and Harry McKeown will teach Social Studies part-time.

Flea market and bake sale June 28

A Flea Market and Bake Sale will be held June 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at First Welsh Presbyterian Church, corner Meade and Northampton Streets, Wilkes-Barre. Parking in rear off Northampton Street. Lunch will be available.

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