

Middle School plan moves ahead, staff cuts seen

By BILL GOODMAN
Post Staff

LEHMAN - During the past week Lake-Lehman school board members have moved forward with plans to both repair and update the buildings in the district.

At a special work session held May 15, the board was presented with a plan for renovations to the high school and middle school. Architect Douglas Trumbower presented the proposed changes to the schools and detailed the how the buildings would be affected. Raymond Lowery of PNC Capital Markets explained how the renovations could be financed without a millage increase. Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Price explained how the renovations would affect curriculum.

Trumbower outlined the proposed changes to the high school, which would build the middle classrooms onto the front of the existing building. Additions and modifications include 12 new classrooms, additions to the band and chorus areas, and a joint library for the middle level and the high school. The cafeteria would be replaced, new storage would be added, and modifications to the gym "would make it the primary athletic area for the district."

On the outside, drainage and lighting improvements would be made, and the student parking lot would be expanded and paved. The technology areas of the school would be updated as part of the renovations.

"It can be done without a millage increase," said Lowery, who detailed a plan to use zero coupon bonds to fund the project. The bonds create arbitrage income, making the interest much more valuable. Under the plan, the 4 percent interest rate wouldn't need to be reported to the IRS, and would be worth 7 or 8 percent.

"A financing plan is a work in progress," said Lowery. "A three year note gives us a three year window." If the time needed to pay off the bond were to be shortened, millage increases would be likely. The record on the matter will be open for 30 days, and any written comment would be passed

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Raymond Lowery
PNC Capital Markets

through the Superintendent's office.

The plan projects savings from the consolidation of personnel. Within three to five years of construction, a single principal would serve both schools, with help from two assistant principals. A single librarian would replace the present two, two secretaries would be eliminated and the staff of full-time custodians would be reduced from nine to seven.

A week earlier, the board voted unanimously to develop a plan and seek bids for the repair of the middle school roof. "We've been doctoring the roof for the last couple years," said Moser. That project could cost as much as \$45,000 for the areas covering the gym, kitchen and shop.

In other business May 9, Dr. Price announced a \$10,000 environmental grant, which would give fourth through sixth grade students the opportunity to learn more about wetlands. Dr. Price confirmed a \$75,000 state grant to update technology. The district will use the money to build a new computer lab in the high school.

Visitors and board members questioned the importance of the Luzerne Intermediate Unit. Angelo DeCesaris, father of the board member, spoke out against the district's involvement in the unit. Board member Lois Kopcha asked about the decrease in services to the district. "Are our children missing out on anything?"

"No," replied Dr. Price, but he asked solicitor Peter Savage to look into leaving the LIU. The board voted 5-4 to ratify the operating budget of the LIU.

The next regular Committee-of-the-Whole meeting will be held Tuesday June 6 at 7 p.m. in the music room of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School. The next meeting for general purposes will be held June 13 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium.



Book scholarships awarded to seniors

The Dallas Federated Area Women's Club awarded book scholarships to two Dallas High School seniors last week. During a meeting held at the Appletree Terrace at the Newberry Estate, Scott Bent, second from left, and Kristin Geiser were presented with the scholarship. Bent is planning to attend Penn State to study engineering, while Geiser also will attend Penn State, to study biochemistry. The club received 17 applications for scholarships, from which winners are selected based on grades, accomplishments both in and outside of school and financial need. Shown with the winners are club representatives Mary Perugino, left, and Kathy Eckels.

POST PHOTO: RON BARTIZEK

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfers were recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse for the week of May 5-11, 2000:

Troup Fund, Inc., to Archer Mohr, et ux, #2 Orchard West, Dallas Borough, \$1,500
Lori Culver, per sheriff, to Finance Household CDC, 72 Jackson St., Dallas Borough, \$2,571
Richard T. Cebrick, to Steve A. Davis, et ux, 2 parcels, Dallas Borough, \$85,000
George N. Bauman, et ux, to James R. Kenny, et ux, see deed, Dallas Borough, \$60,000
Michael Mandel, et ux, to Scott B. Shuster, et ux, 1.561 acres, Dallas Twp., \$185,000

Paul D. Urbanas, et ux, to Jay Charles Smith, 2 parcels, Dallas Twp., \$100,000
Mark Freedman, atty in fact, to Ruth K. Smith, see deed, Dallas Twp., \$5,200
Debra O'Malia, per sheriff, to Federal Home Loan Mtg. Corp., 540 Park Ave., Jackson Twp., \$90,000
Manufacturers & Traders Trust Co., to Jeffrey R. Brown, et ux, 1596-1600 Eight St., Kingston Twp., \$33,000
William J. Thomas, et ux, to Mark Mallinovich, et al, lot 64, Kingston Twp., \$107,000
Zavalosea, Inc., to John M. Murray, Lot 4 Green Acres, Lake Twp., \$85,100

Youth dance May 20 at Our Lady of Victory

Our Lady of Victory Youth Group, Harvey's Lake, is hosting a community dance for all 7th to 10th grade students of the area. There will be a DJ and great fun. The dance is being held on Saturday, May 20, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Our Lady of Victory Parish Hall, Harvey's Lake. Partial proceeds will benefit St. Joseph's

Center of Scranton. Admission is \$3, and free snacks are included. Wear something red, white and blue to blend in with the others. The dance is being chaperoned by parents. All attendees must be picked up at the door, and no students are permitted to leave without an adult. Dance ends promptly at 10 p.m.

Dream workshop registrations open

Registrations are now being accepted for a "Dreams & Visions" workshop to be held Saturday, May 20, at River of Life Fellowship, 194 N. Memorial Highway, Shavertown.

The day-long workshop is designed to train and equip anyone who has a desire to hear and respond to the voice of God. Learn about dream interpretation and word meanings and how dreams and visions can make a world of difference in your life.

Pastor/Teacher Mary Ann Kotch will present the workshop. There is a registration fee of twenty dollars. For information phone 674-5459.

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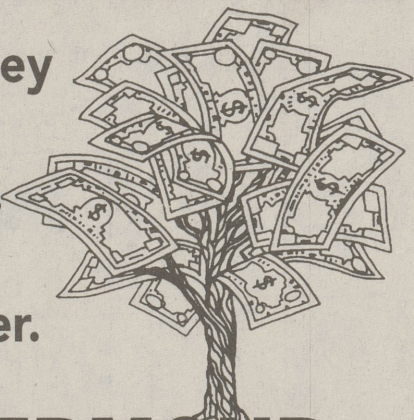
Sportsman's Club meeting May 21

The monthly meeting of the Noxen-Monroe Sportman's Club will be held on May 21, at 2 p.m. at the Club's hall, Market St., Noxen.

Choral Society presents spring concert

The Orpheus Choral Society will present a spring concert at the Maple Grove United Methodist Church, Pikes Creek, on Sun., May 21 at 7 p.m. The Choral Society is made up of 35 male and female voices.

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