

# Ross Elementary now waiting for furnishings

By HEATHER B. JONES  
Post Staff

**LEHMAN TWP.** - Ross Elementary School was the topic of discussion at the August 21 Lake-Lehman School Board meeting, but talk wasn't only about the school not opening on time.

The school could not open the first day of school on August 28 because of an excessive amount of moisture in the new concrete flooring, said Robert Roberts, district superintendent. Due to the concrete problem the carpet could not be installed.

A contingency plan was then put in motion which sent Ross students to either Lake-Noxen or Lehman-Jackson elementary schools for the first 25 days of school.

"Levels are coming down," said Douglas Trumbower of Douglas Trumbower and Associates, Inc., about the moisture problem. The longer it takes for the concrete to give up the moisture, the stronger it is, he said.

The district has scheduled Ross Elementary School to be open on October 1. The addition is going to be close to being done in October, said Trumbower. The entire \$4.3 million dollar renovation and expansion project is scheduled for completion in January.

On the day of the school board meeting, board members received a five-page list of items which were put out for bid during the summer. The bids were to be voted on for purchase at the meeting.

"This is what they have requested and it's basic equipment," said Cathleen Williams, district business manager.

"I understand the need to get this in and open Ross, but I'd like to know what I'm voting on," said Angelo DeCesaris, school

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Angelo DeCesaris  
School board president

board president. He wanted time to review information before having to vote.

"I don't want to delay that building any more than we have," Charles Boytin said after Williams stressed the need to vote on the bids at the August meeting.

"Why are we just purchasing goods now?" asked Linda Schuler. She questioned if Ross Elementary School was originally scheduled to be opened in August why the district was now making purchases of items needed to open the school as Williams had said.

"This is not the furniture needed to open the school. These items aren't needed until January when the school is fully opened," Williams said. "Most of this will go into the new section."

Williams clarified it was the kitchenware needed for opening the school on October 1. Until the new furniture is received, Williams said the school will use the furniture which is in storage.

"This school is not going to have 100 percent new furnishings," said Trumbower. He explained the majority of items being ordered were for the seven new classrooms and two special education rooms being added to the school.

"Did we mess up? Yeah, somewhere," said Boytin in response to the questions regarding Ross

Elementary.

"I will accept full blame for the board receiving these bids tonight, due to both personal and professional reasons," said Williams.

The kitchenware items are all in-stock and none of the items are major equipment. Williams said basic items like pots and measuring cups need to be purchased. She said the furniture however, will take longer to arrive, a minimum of eight weeks.

Discarded items from Ross Elementary School will either be sold or recycled. Items will be sold at auction many months from now, said Williams.

When the board did approve both the kitchenware and the furniture purchases, DeCesaris abstained from both votes and Lois Kopcha abstained from the vote on the furniture.

The bids for the small kitchenware went to the following companies: Rice Food Equipment and Consultants, Dallas, \$2,386; American Paper and Supply, Berwick, \$139; and American restaurant Supply Co., Courtdale, \$665.

The furniture bids were awarded to: Corporate Express, Pittston, \$1,879; Swift and Swift Furniture, Scranton, \$33,782; and Stone Office Equipment, Scranton, \$20,873.

The next big construction project for the Lake-Lehman School District will be at the high school. The project will renovate the high school and add a new middle school section onto the existing high school building.

"One of the biggest problems is asbestos," said Trumbower. There is a lot to be removed from the high school before work can even begin, he said. The asbestos abatement is scheduled to begin June of 2002.

The board also accepted the audit report of the tax collectors.

The report suggested the district look into having all tax collectors deposit funds into one central fund immediately after receiving payments. Currently, tax collectors have their own separate accounts which they deposit payments into and then make one lump payment to the district.

"It's ridiculous to give up income," DeCesaris said. He said

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Charles Boytin  
School director

the district would make money if the payments were placed in one interest bearing account.

Three new teachers were approved by the school board. Shelene Perlis was hired as a long-term substitute for the 2001-02 school year.

Corrine Anderson, Harveys Lake was hired as a full-time teacher at Lehman-Jackson Elementary School. Frank Corey, Pittston, was hired as a full-time secondary mathematics teacher.

The district also hired Denise Ritz, Sweet Valley, as a technology aide to support the district's technology plan.

The board regrettably accepted the resignation of Brian Coombs as Assistant Girls Basketball Coach.

The school board's next work session is scheduled for September 4 at 7 p.m. and the fund balance policy will be discussed. The next regular school board meeting has been changed to September 11 at 7 p.m. due to "Back to School Night" at the middle school on September 18.



Clyde Birth Memorial Award recipients from left: Fran Sabaluski and Lorna Chin.

## BMT residents honored

Staff members were honored at the annual Penn State Wilkes-Barre Student Government Association banquet held at the Irem Temple County Club.

The Clyde Birth memorial Award-spring semester, was given to Lehman resident, Fran Sabaluski, student support services staff assistant; fall semester, was presented to Lorna Chin of Dallas.

This award, sponsored by the Circle K Club, was established in memory of Clyde Birth, past president of the Dallas Kiwanis Club. It is presented to student, staff or faculty members who have contributed the most to the welfare of the student body during the academic year.

## Lions honor Lake-Lehman student of the quarter



The Lake Silkworth Area Lions honored Gordon Stransky as the Student of the Quarter from Lake-Lehman High School. Gordon and his mother, Donna Stransky, were guests of the Lions at a dinner meeting at the Red Rooster Restaurant, Pikes Creek.

Stransky was presented with a monetary gift and a certificate in recognition of outstanding school and community achievement. Gordon is senior class president, school newspaper editor, a six year member of the National Honor Society, Eagle Scout, member of the Environmental Club, Best and Brightest Nominee, and First Place winner in the Research Paper Division for Regional History Day.

He plans to attend Bucknell University to study business management with a minor in film. Gordon is the son of Mark and Donna Stransky, Shickshinny.

From left: Donna Stransky, Gordon Stransky, Student Awards Chairman Janet Swanger, and Lake Silkworth Area Lions Club President Joan Kelly.

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## Dallas Borough warns of burglaries

Due to a recent outbreak of burglaries and thefts from vehicles over the last two weeks, the Dallas Borough Police Department is advising the residents of Dallas to secure their doors and windows on the ground floors, along with locking their vehicles. The past incidents involved either unlocked doors, vehicle and residential, or by removing or cutting screens. Anyone with any information or that possibly observes something out of the ordinary should immediately contact 911 to summon the police.

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