



Furniture store opens

Sutliff's Back Mountain Furniture has opened in the space formerly occupied by Little Lumber at the intersection of routes 415 and 118 in Dallas. The new store marks a return of sorts for the family furniture business. Dana Sutliff Jr. operates the store with help from his father, who operated a store on Memorial Highway in Dallas for many years until the mid-1980s. Sutliff's Back Mountain Furniture offers a full line of better quality furniture for every room in the home, displayed on two levels of the building. Special orders are also available. The store is open Monday through Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays. Dana Sutliff Jr. is shown in an area of the showroom that features leather living room furniture.

Teachers

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bonus equal to 80 percent of the employee's final average salary.

The district's proposal includes a 2.75 percent wage increase, the average increase of other Luzerne County districts, according to the Lake-Lehman School District. It also includes a continuation of the current health insurance program and an increase in the rate to be paid for accumulated sick leave upon retirement. The district also supports a provision that "reduces the district's obligation

to pay health insurance on retirement by any amount the retired teacher receives as a health subsidy from the state retirement system."

The board agreed to request a fact finder from the state Labor Relations Board to provide comparative information to aid in the negotiation process. James Mahon cast the lone dissenting vote.

The district's report stated no announcements have been made by the district regarding negotiations because "It is not

the intention of the district to bargain through the media."

John Holland, an attorney with the Pennsylvania State Education Association, said bargaining through the media is exactly what the district is doing.

"Your statements are rarely consistent with your actions," he said. "... It doesn't surprise me you would behave in such unethical behavior as you did tonight."

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

Board members dig into food service

By ELIZABETH ANDERSON
Post Correspondent

LEHMAN TWP. — To bag or not to bag.

Teachers and board members at the last school board work session spoke up concerning the quality of the present food services program while discussing new vendors for the next school year. According to some Lake-Lehman faculty, school district "kids getting lunch in our school are probably getting it because they are on free or reduced lunches, or their parents work and they have nothing else they can do." Teachers said they see most of the lunches going into the garbage.

"For some kids, the only meal they are going to get is the one

they get in school," said board member Michelle Coombs. "So why not give them the best meal they can get?" she asked.

Other board members agreed. "I prefer to serve a quality product as opposed to throwing money away," said Angelo DeCesaris. "Right now it's doing nobody any good, am I correct?" He added, "I'd like to know what the cost of doing it internally is going to be."

Board president Charles Boytin said that while he didn't "want to reduce everything to dollars and pennies, there were times when the board had to transfer large amounts of money to the cafeteria fund" when it was under in-house control. Business manager Kathleen Williams said those amounts

ran from \$40,000 to \$50,000. She added the trend was to stay with professional companies because of strict guidelines required by the state, and marketing and other services they offer.

"Before you decide anything, maybe you ought to come and join us. We'd be happy to have you," one Lake-Noxen elementary school teacher advised the board.

The board also discussed the question of creating a new full-time band director and music teacher position or making it a strictly extracurricular position. John Oliver, the high school principal, feels if marching band does become an extracurricular activity that band must be removed from the curriculum.

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