Dallas again holds back payments on middle school

Staff report

DALLAS TWP. — Chronic problems with auditorium seats in the newly renovated Dallas Middle School — including an elderly lady falling when a seat broke — prompted stinging questions from the school board, and refusal to pay bills.

"There are 1,034 seats, about 70 percent of them were put in wrong, and five were broken and had to be fixed," Principal Anthony Martinelli said at Monday's meeting of the board.

The seats were removed during renovation, then reinstalled last year. Martinelli said the seats in the back of the auditorium are supposed to be slightly wider than in the front. This keeps the aisles straight.

Martinelli said, five seats have roken since the school started ising them heavily around Christmas. "The first time, a 70-year-old grandmother sat in the second seat of the first row and it broke," Martinelli said.

Architect Paul Degillio said a letter has been sent to the subcontractor responsible for the seats warning they must be fixed and that payment would be withheld, but the board wasn't satisfied.

Neither Degillio nor Superintendent Gilbert Griffiths knew the total cost of the seat re-installation, or how much has been paid for it so far.

Construction Management, notified the board that small rust spots in the new pool couldn't be fixed without draining the pool, prompting board Member Anthony Barbose to ask, "When were we planning to drain that pool? We weren't planning that.

Degillio told the board that about \$460,000 has been spent from \$725,000 earmarked for unexpected costs, but Gallo warned that those numbers didn't include nearly \$200,000 in bills that are pending. Gallo said about 95 percent of the work is done, but warned only about \$75,000 remains for contingencies.

Additional problems were noted, including a new sound system in the natatorium that is hard to understand, and shoddy or incomplete furniture installations by Institutional Furnishings Inc. in the classrooms and science labs.

The board ultimately gave the construction heads five days to research the seat problem and give a report, and until the next meeting on Jan. 27 on the other problems.

The board also refused to pay \$59,579 to Miller Bros., \$87,578 to Institutional Furnishings and \$4,820 to Foreman Architects/Engineers Inc., Degillio's company.

This article appeared in origi-Len Gallo, from Reynolds nal form in the Times Leader.

Planners wait for direction from state before next move

By SCOTT VINNACOMBE II Post Correspondent

KINGSTON TWP. — The Kingston Township Planning Commission is waiting for direction from the state before suggesting changes to zoning or building codes.

The state of Pennsylvania, like other states, is currently sorting through methods and ideas that would serve to unite counties, townships and municipalities under the same set of zoning laws and regulations. Pennsylvania legislators are in the process of weighing the pros and cons of such a move and it appears the ball will drop in favor

the process.

is done now. At this point, there are many different codes and regulations throughout the state's numerous municipalities, counties, townships and boroughs.

William M. Eck, Zoning Code Enforcement Officer, plans to go over new ordinances that would be initiated under the UCC (Uniform Code Council) in order to ascertain which of the policies would be useful in Kingston Township. Eck will then recommend to the Planning Commission that they take these suggestions to the Board of Supervisors and recommend they be adopted. From there these suggestions, as well as those from municipalities statewide, will be sent to state officials, where decisions will be made based on those suggestions. At this point, nothing is certain as to how municipalities will be able to deviate from whatever rules and codes are finalized. According to Eck, new amendments to zoning codes and rules will need to be decided upon within the state legislature before decisions closer to home can be made. This, he says, will only happen after all smaller organizations check in with their own recommendations.

Small Wonders gift drive The families of Small Wonders Day Care School collected many toys for the Toys-for-Tots program. Pictured in the photo are children from the small wonders before and after school program, displaying a few of the many toys collected.

These items were donated to the United States Marine Corps and were distributed to children for Christmas.

From left, first row sitting: Rebecca Sweetra, Mackenzie Brennan, Brandon Goble, Emily Banta. Second row: Danielle Bloomfield, Casey McAndrew, Michael Carey, Kayla Kaufmann, Jeremy Geisinger.

Vision

(continued from page 1)

process, in which participants look ahead 10 years or more and take steps make their dreams for an area a reality.

"If we put everyone's talents together and work for the good, we can improve the future of the Back Mountain," said Eckert.

One of the purposes of the upcoming meeting is to adopt a vision statement. The statement is the result of a series of public meetings over the last 12 months, in which four task forces and the steering committee have been addressing issues identified as important through a community survey completed in 2002.

The four task forces - downtown revitalization, community spring beautification programs.

A recent press release urged residents to participate. It read: "All Back Mountain residents

Member FDI

visioning of their community. It will provide citizens that have been unable to attend previous meetings an opportunity to get involved and for those individuals who have not yet joined a

The meeting will include presentations by regional program facilitators and refreshments will be served. Any questions about the visioning process or meeting can be addressed to the Dallas Borough administrative office, 25 Main St., Dallas, 18612. Or call 675-1389 for more information.

Bridge

(continued from page 1)

board to have a traffic light installed at the intersection of Manor Drive, Dug Road and Carverton Road. Township Police Chief James Balavage presented an accident report from the intersection, which provided figures warranting the board approving a request that PennDOT do a traffic study in that area. It was also requested that Green Road be properly paved so that commuters would be more willing to travel on it.

On another topic, Supervisor Chris Yankovich presented the board with an illegal parking issue. Throughout the township, vehicles are continuously parking over yellow lines directly in lanes of traffic. The particular location used as an example was Warden Avenue. Supervisors agree that the problem has occurred on more than one street however, and that something must be done about it. This type of illegal parking is obstructing the traffic flow during all times of the year and does not allow for plows to get through during treacherous weather.

Solicitor Benjamin Jones suggested the posting of an overabundance of no parking signage would be cost prohibitive and that appearance would be an issue. O'Neill recommended that a warning system could be put into affect. In this way, parking offenders would be made aware of the situation by receiving a written warning, the information would then be logged on file and should that same vehicle be found parking illegally again there would be a fine and towing.

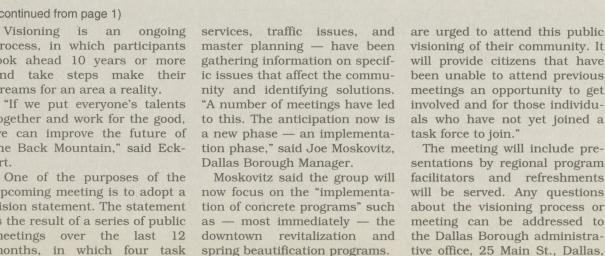
Jones felt that the main reason for the dangerous parking situation is that many of today's families have more vehicles than their lots can handle. Bigger families with older children who drive sometimes own three or four vehicles and they are forced to find somewhere other than their own lots to park. Jones now says he has enough information to go to PennDOT and discuss the exact rules and possible options.

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The Kingston Township Planing Commission met to discuss zoning issues and to elect their officials on Tuesday. Elected officials are the same board members who served in 2002 and consist of Ed Price Jr. as Chairman, Vice Chairman Sam Merrill and Secretary Frank Grabowski.

Commission members tend to believe that the idea of Uniform Code Council, which is what state legislators are trying to initiate, would be an overall improvement over the way zoning

PO.



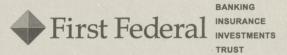




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