

# Lake-Lehman plan wins 1-vote majority

By CRISTINA SILVA  
For The Dallas Post

**LEHMAN TWP.** — By a single vote, and against a recommendation from Business Manager Kathleen Williams, Lake-Lehman School Board members approved for the sixth consecutive year a budget that did not include a millage increase.

The board voted 5-4 to keep the millage at 221 for Luzerne County and 42 for Wyoming County during a June 30 meeting at Lehman-Jackson Elementary.

The budget of \$20,473,545 expenditures and revenues of \$19,419,068 will be balanced with the district's fund balance and a reduction in overall operation costs.

Under the approved budget, the district will no longer fund field trips, professional memberships and dues, travel expenses, conferences, tennis instruction fees and advertisement of School Board meetings in more than one newspaper.

Board members Angelo DeCesaris, Sheila Gionfriddo, Lois Kopcha and James Mahon voted against the budget.

Kopcha said failure to raise taxes this year would amount to an even larger millage increase in 2004. A mill is \$1 tax

on every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Williams presented the board with five possible budgets, with solutions to the district's deficit problem ranging from a \$1.5 million loan to an 11-mill increase. Williams urged the board to take out a low-interest loan or to increase the millage, warning that the board was spending more than it received each year.

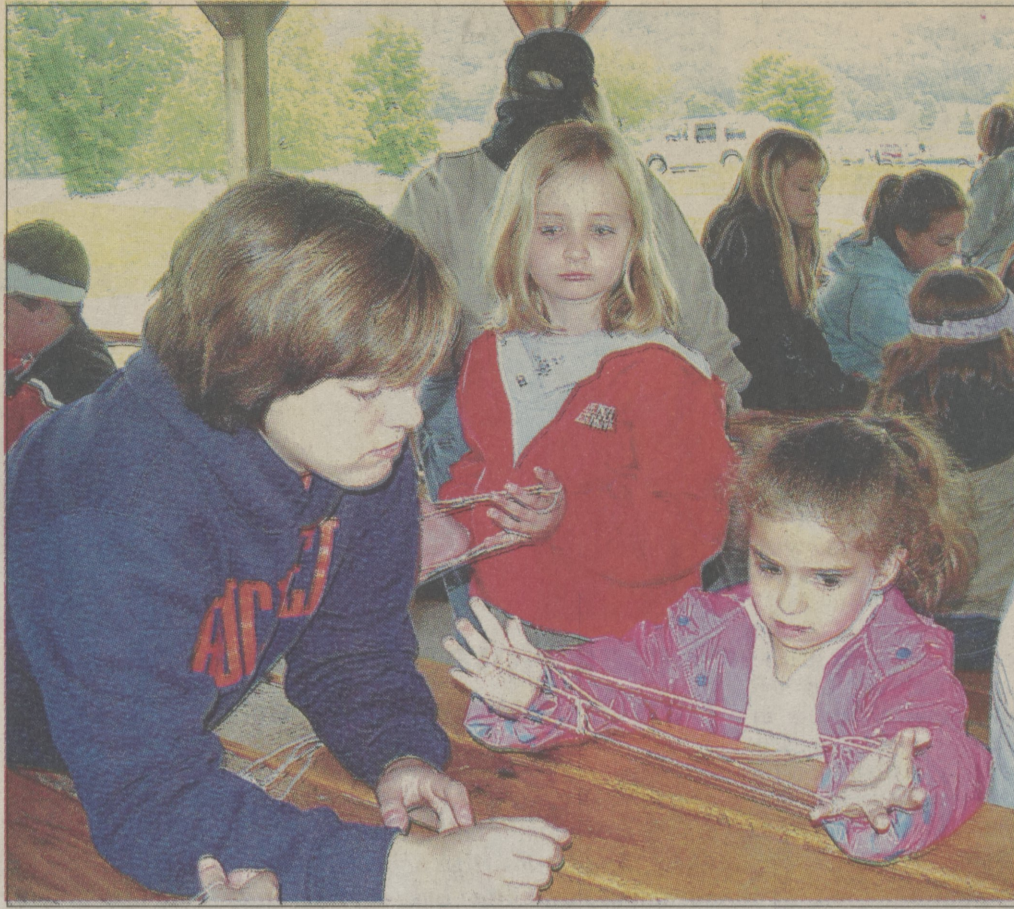
The approved budget does not provide funding for renovations. The board had previously proposed the district's science and industrial arts facilities be refurbished.

Board members did not vote on whether to allow Superintendent Robert Roberts to step down to become a high school co-principal with Michael Gokay, the school's current principal, for the 2003-2004 school year. Several board members had previously said they would vote on the matter during the Monday meeting.

Michelle Coombs, board president, said it was a personnel issue and would be discussed during a future meeting.

The next general-purpose meeting will be July 9 in the music room of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School.

*This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.*



## Fun inside and out at Girl Scout day camp

Service Unit 19 of Penns Woods Girl Scout Council held its annual day camp at Frances Slocum State Park in mid-June. Volunteers Dr. Deb Serfass and Marjorie Adams, were the camp coordinators for the eighth consecutive year. Over 50 adults volunteered for duty throughout the week with 12, including two nurses, at the camp full time. In addition, 33 counselors and 19 program aides helped with the scheduled activities for 120 Girl Scouts, 12 Rangers, and 12 Pixies. Activities ranged from swimming and paddle boating to crafts and camp cooking. Kathy Kelchner, naturalist at Frances Slocum, spent an afternoon with the scouts explaining some of the park's native reptiles. Special designation days included Twin Day and Crazy Daze.

In top photo; rainy camp days were no problem as scouts participated in many activities under the pavilion. Pictured is counselor Amanda Musto teaching Abby Downs, left, and Kami McGee, how to play the string game Cat's Cradle.

Bottom left; Thursday was Twin Day at Camp Mocanaquah as evidenced by buddies Emilia Kon, on left, and Jenna Morgan. They are pictured with their counselor Megan Youells.

Each unit carried its sign to the daily opening and closing ceremonies. In lower left photo, Dana Martin, left, and Ellen Arnaud, carried the Dazzling Divas sign on Twin Day.

— Text and photos by M.B. Gilligan



## Budgets

(continued from page 1)

20 percent. Ernest Ashbridge, board president, said Monday night he was "fine" with the budget. He commented: "We still have a fund balance."

Matiska said she didn't feel

comfortable taking \$1 million out of the fund balance.

"I'd rather see it (the \$1 million) go into a capital reserve fund marked for all-day kindergarten," she said.

## Franklin Twp. summer office hours

Summer hours for the Franklin Township Business Office are as follows: July: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 7-9 a.m.; Tuesday and Friday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; August: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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