

Kapral guest at Lion's meeting

Michael Kapral, grandson of Lion Frank and Polly Michael, was a guest of the Dallas Lions Club at a recent meeting. Michael was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his participation in the ringing of the bells for the Salvation Army last Christmas. Shown presenting the certificate to Kapral is Immediate Past President Paul McCue.



Construction issues dominate board session

By KALEN CHURCHER
For The Dallas Post

LEHMAN TWP. — At Tuesday night's School Board meeting, several members criticized how and when they receive pertinent School District news, ranging from budgetary issues to construction woes. By not receiving information in a timely manner, they can not address concerns or problems appropriately, they said.

Armed with pictures of a puddle-ridden roof, board member James Mahon asked Doug Trumbower, district architect, why the board was not made aware of the water problem earlier. Mahon said he only learned of the issue when he was shown the photos. He then went on the roof to investigate. "The problem with the gym roof had to be known before I went up there Friday," Mahon said.

The roof is new and part of the School District's multi-million dollar junior/senior high school construction project.

Trumbower admitted he knew of the puddles — 6 feet long and 3 inches deep according to Mahon — for four or five months. He maintains that if the puddles were "never touched" they would not be a detriment to the roof. However, the roof will be fixed, he said.

Board members received another construction blow when they learned that an old roof on part of the junior/senior high school is also facing troubles. Mark J. Sobeck, of Mark J. Sobeck Roof Consulting, said small holes in the rubberized roof might stretch in the future. In time, the rubber also will begin to shrink and distort.

Fixing the problem now would likely cost the cash-strapped school district \$20,000 to \$30,000, he said. Though the School District does not have the extra money to fund the work, Sobeck cautioned that waiting will likely mean a drastic increase in the cost of repairs.

Also Tuesday night, board member Angelo DeCesaris took issue with recent statements made by Kathleen Williams, the School District's business manager. Williams, who is frequently criticized for not providing board members with complete budget reports, said a lack of clear communication by board members often causes the problem.

"To say you were not given direction, I take that personally," DeCesaris said, adding he has asked for specific budget forecasts for years.

In other business: • The School Board will have a special meeting at 6 p.m. Oct. 1 to discuss several items, including the future of science and industrial arts labs and construction problems. The meeting will be held in the music room of the Lehman-Jackson Elementary School.

• The following people were appointed to coaching positions for the 2003-04 school year: He-

lene Strutko, junior high cross country, \$519; Michael Hardiman, varsity assistant boys basketball, \$3,878; Kari Maskalis and William Boyle, junior high assistant girls basketball, \$2,598 each; Brian Gorski, head baseball, \$3,585; Frank Carey, varsity assistant baseball, \$2,234; Scott Carter and Charles Kopetchne, junior high assistant baseball, \$1,975; Jan Elston, girls head soccer, \$3,166; Larry Rittenhouse, girls varsity assistant soccer, \$2,010; John Baranowski, boys volleyball, \$3,585; Robert Mitkus, assistant track, \$2,234; Mary Ann Maxfield, assistant track coach, \$1,872; and Kari Maskalis and Timothy Sutliff, assistant track coach, \$1,975 each.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.

Lehman schools stay ahead of requirements

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

LEHMAN TWP. — Attendance and graduation rates may be down this year in Lake-Lehman schools, but PSSA test scores show the district is making the grade in academics.

While some test scores rose and others fell, none changed enough to attract scrutiny, said Dave McLaughlin-Smith, Lake-Lehman's curriculum director.

The district's scores in reading and math varied dramatically from school to school this year, but while some schools in other areas fell onto the Pennsylvania Accountability System warning list for failing to meet minimum requirements in reading and math, Lehman stayed steady.

"I think Lehman-Jackson did outstanding. Lake-Noxen is steadily increasing. My concern is to evaluate what we did at Ross Elementary."

At 37 percent proficient or advanced in math, Ross barely cleared the 35 percent cutoff mandated by the Federal No Child Left Behind law. In reading, Ross scored a higher 60 percent proficient or advanced, 15 points above the 45 percent requirement in the subject.

McLaughlin-Smith speculated about possible causes of the low math score.

"What is it that caused that, the curriculum? It could be an emotional thing," he said.

Last year the tests were given to children in grades 5, 8, and 11. Last year was also the first year Ross had a fifth grade. Students from the district's oth-

er two elementaries were moved to form new fifth and sixth grades there. McLaughlin-Smith suggested that may have had an impact on the children.

How the schools fared:

(All numbers are proficient and advanced categories combined together)

Lehman-Jackson and the middle school were the only two schools to have both their reading and math scores rise.

Lehman-Jackson scored a 90.3 percent in math, up 30 points over last year. They scored 85.5 percent in reading, up 20 points over last year.

Lake-Noxen went up three percentage points in math from 51.7 to 54.9, but down by 13 points in reading from 60.7 to 47 percent.

The middle school scored 58.4 percent in math, up by 8 percent and 76 percent in reading, up by 12 percent.

The high school scored 45 percent in math, down by 4 percent and 54.4 in reading, down by 12.6.

To start identifying whether lags in scores are due to curriculum, specific teachers, or individual students, McLaughlin-Smith said he is continuously updating a longitudinal study of student's test scores.

"Can we use it (NCLB/PSSA) to make real improvement or change in the system?" he asked rhetorically. "If we can, then maybe it was worth the amount of money they spent to develop the tests."

Back Mountain Seniors meet Thursdays

The Back Mountain Seniors wish to announce change in meeting dates.

Meetings will now be held once monthly, on the first Thursday of the month.

Meetings will start at 1 p.m. and will be held in St. Therese's Hall on Pioneer Ave. and Davis Street in Shavertown.

Work on sleeping bags for the homeless will begin at 12 p.m. before each meeting.

For information call Lil at 696-1828 or Marie at 696-3095.

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