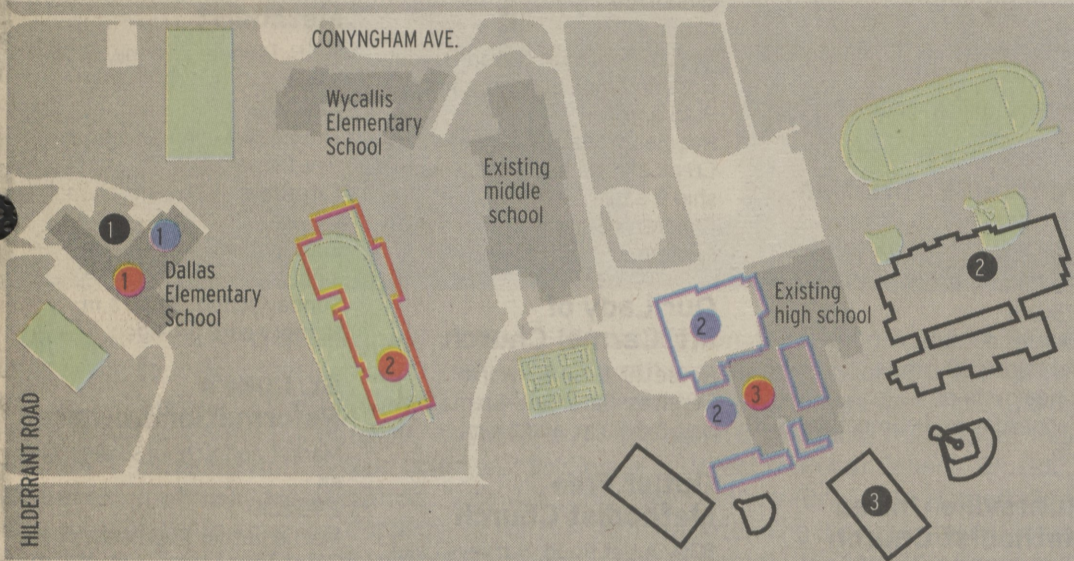


The DALLAS POST

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF THE DALLAS AND LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Dallas School District building improvement project



Three plans are being considered. Here are highlights of each.

- A1**
 - 1 Renovate Elementary
 - 2 Build new high school
 - 3 New sports fields
- A2**
 - 1 Demolish elementary school for high school parking
 - 2 Build new high school on site of sports field
 - 3 Renovate high school into elementary school
- B1**
 - 1 Renovate Elementary School
 - 2 Build additions and renovate high school

DALLAS POST GRAPHIC/MARIE GUGLIEMO

School options unveiled

By DAVE KONOPKI
Dallas Post Editor

DALLAS TWP. – Identifying the problem is easy. Just take a few minutes to tour the aging and undersized Dallas High School and Dallas Elementary School.

Solving the problem? Well, that's a lot more complicated.

The Dallas School Board voted 5-3 to adopt a preliminary 2007-08 budget that would raise property taxes 9 mills with total spending at \$27.7 million, almost \$1.3 million more than this year. The vote came after board members received revised estimates for construction and renovation costs for the high school and Dallas Elementary School. Those costs could reach \$50 million.

Architects from Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates present-

ed the school board with three options for the schools: 1) build a new high school near the on the baseball field near the football stadium, demolishing the old high school for parking, and renovating the elementary school; 2) build a new high school where the Dallas Middle School football/soccer field now sits. Also, renovate the existing high school for elementary students while razing the existing elementary for parking; and 3) renovate both existing buildings.

Dennis Gochoel – who joined fellow board members Gary Mathers and Russ Bigus in voting against the preliminary budget – wants the district to carefully consider the correct route to take.

"I have a lot of questions," Gochoel said. "There are several

ways to approach things. You can do it in an individual manner or a holistic manner. The simplest thing to do would be picking a building and going ahead with it. I don't think that's the best solution.

"We need to look at our needs and the project going into the future. We need to come up with five- or seven-year plan that factors in everything. I don't want to see us make a choice to build or renovate and then three years later have to deal with another problem, especially with Dallas Elementary."

Board members Maureen Matiska, Bruce Goeringer, Karen Kyle, Rich Coslett and Dick Orlovski voted in favor of the preliminary budget, while James Ri-

See OPTIONS, Page 3

An emotional Demetria Brown gives her speech during a special program at Lake-Lehman.



FOR THE DALLAS POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Essays pay tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

While many of their counterparts were enjoying a day off from school by sleeping late, watching television or just hanging out, Lake-Lehman students were hearing about the dreams of their classmates.

The Lake-Lehman Junior-Senior High School held several activities to mark the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. last week. Students in teacher Gail Honeywell's ninth grade English classes delivered their own modern versions of King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

To prepare for their own speeches, the students they listened to King's version of the speech and were used it as a template for their own, paying close attention to sentence structure and the use of repetition.

Honeywell said the students' words are sincere and often very personal, going beyond universal requests for items like world peace and racial equality.

"We don't have that huge faction of students who are culturally diverse, but then again, Martin Luther King Jr. Day really isn't just about black and white," Honeywell told a Times Leader reporter. "It's about inequality and individuality. It's about size, weight, the color of their hair, their pimples. It's about smart students and learning support students ... girls versus the boys."

The Dallas Post made several requests for the students to submit their speeches for publication. No one responded to the requests.



FOR THE DALLAS POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Lake-Lehman High School students, from left, Aime Sgarlat, Ryan Wagner, Sara Farrey and Jaime Lipski participated in a school assembly during Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Cathie Pauley continues to preserve Noxen landmark



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/S. JOHN WILKIN

The Noxen Historical Society holds a meeting in the old Noxen School.

Old-school satisfaction

By TOM VENESKY
tvenesky@timesleader.com

NOXEN TOWNSHIP – Since 2000, Cathie Pauley has worked to save the old Noxen School from the wrecking ball. With the support of residents, she convinced township officials the building is worth saving. She has filled out numerous grant applications, organized fundraisers, solicited donations and spent countless hours in the century old building fixing, cleaning and maintaining. The effort has required Pauley to make some sacrifices along the way, mainly with her time and energy, and even her house.

"My house needs a roof big time. I have more pots and pans in my attic than I do in my kitchen," she said.

Coincidentally, the Noxen School needs a new roof, too. Age and wind have taken a toll on the shingles, and Pauley said it's not going to last much longer.

Considering her passion for the old school, it's not surprising that the roof on Pauley's home is going to have to wait until enough money is raised to replace the roof on the Noxen landmark. It's just one example of her dedication to the project.

It's a dedication that is borne



TIMES LEADER STAFF PHOTO/S. JOHN WILKIN

Some of the recent updates to the old Noxen School include a plaque with names of people who have help preserve the historical building.

out of a sense of pride for one's hometown.

"It's important to remember where we came from," Pauley said. "Our grandparents came here and built a tannery, hotel, movie theater, and an entire town. The school was built in 1897, and it's a part of that. It's part of my heritage and this town's heritage."

Today, the school resembles the impressive structure it was when it was built more than a century ago. Through the work of Pauley and the Noxen Historical Community Association, Inc., the two-story structure boasts many new or updated parts, including 52 windows, 10 doors, new wiring and plumbing, a modern kitchen and a new

heating system complete with two new furnaces. Fresh coats of paint have brought new life to the large community room, art room and the upstairs bathrooms. And it all happened in a little more than four years.

Now, Pauley and the community association are setting their sites on the roof. Like all the other projects, it's going to be costly.

Pauley said the association was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the state Department of Community and Economic Development last year. She is still waiting for the money to come in, and, assuming it does, an additional \$8,000 will be needed for a new roof. It might seem like a large sum for the small Wyoming County community, but the

association will rely on some proven methods to get the cash – fundraisers, private donations and volunteer time.

Pauley admits the work isn't easy and it is time consuming. She also acknowledges it is finally starting to take a toll.

Her role as president of the association ends this May, and Pauley is ready to hand over the reins. She will still lobby for grants and put the hours in at the school, but Pauley would like another resident to pick up some of the work load.

"It's a fight every day, but it is also rewarding at the same time," she said. "That building is used more than ever and it's enjoyed by the community more than I expected. It's really taken off."

"I want to cut back, but not completely. I enjoy serving the community and seeing people's faces when they walk in and see what we've done. This building is drawing the community together, that's why it's a success."

In the meantime, Pauley will forge ahead scheduling community dances and hoagie sales to get a new roof for the school. Hopefully, when May comes around, she'll be able to start on another roofing project and put a few pots and pans back in her cupboards.

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