

## TRASH

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Connie Scott believes everyone is doing a good job with the trash collection.

"They're always on-time picking up the garbage and they never leave anything sitting there," she said. "I think the prices went up only because gas and landfill prices went up."

Luzerne County Solid Waste Management does have some helpful hints for those wishing cut back on household garbage. They suggest putting all aluminum, cardboard, glass, grass clippings, office paper waste, plastics, steel cans and yard waste into the recycling collection bins for pick up.

## HIGH SCHOOL

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school is too small. His son, who is a freshman, takes a class with 23 other students in a storage closet off the gym, he said. "It's beyond ridiculous," he said. "That's a death trap waiting to happen."

Board member Richard Coslett pointed out that with the closing of most Catholic schools in the area, the need to make room for the anticipated enrollment increase is greater than ever. Board member Karen Kyle said the number of students who enroll in kindergarten each year is a prediction into the future population numbers of the middle school and the high school. "We have to make these tough

choices," she said. "I'd rather not make them."

District resident Andy Poplarz asked the board if the new school would include a shop class for hands-on training. "There's a lot of kids out there, that learn by using their hands, by learning what they can construct," he said.

Kyle said the school's new educational program would include a drafting lab, graphic arts lab, wood and electronics technology lab, a 3-D design studio, a drawing and painting studio, and computer lab. The program would also expand the family and consumer sciences department, and the performing arts area.

Private contractor Dick Morgan spoke out against the plans to build a new school, suggesting instead, to build an addition above the current school.

"I don't want to see the buildings spread out any more than they are," he said. "I want to see the buildings go up." He presented a picture of a building he copied from the Internet, which he said is an example of what he feels the school should look like. Rohrbaugh pointed out that the building in the picture was actually Crabtree's Mechanicsburg office.

Morgan said he was "blown off" by most of the board members at the last public meeting.

"I told them I didn't believe they knew what they were doing," he said. "This is too big of a project for nine people to make that kind of decision, with that much money - taxpayer's money."

Dallas resident Melissa Janoski asked if needed improvements

would be still be done at Dallas Elementary School. Assistant superintendent Paul Reinert explained that even though the elementary school has many issues that need to be addressed, the first priority is taking care of the high school and to add 10 additional classrooms to Wycallis Elementary School.

Former Wyoming Valley West science teacher, Joe Habersky compared the schools to the human body.

"It's like a body going into an emergency room. We're in an emergency right now," he said. "There are different things that are wrong with the 'body'. You have to consider what to stabilize that is the most important. It seems to be the high school."

Efficient use of natural resources and energy conservation

should also be considered in the building plans, he said. "Once we get it built, what's going to save us the most money?" Habersky commended the board for keeping the public informed. "They're extremely open, as well as the administration, to our needs."

Although most seats in the administration building's meeting room were filled, board president Maureen Matiska said she expected a bigger crowd, commenting on the low turnout also at recent public meetings.

"For those of you who believe in it, you need to talk it," Matiska said, adding that the best advertisement is word-of-mouth. "You need to tell people we need it, and that you understand why, because you've been here," she stressed. "People need to understand, these are not frivolous projects."



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