

DALLAS SCHOOL BOARD

# Board divided on construction labor

By REBECCA BRIA  
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Members of the Dallas School Board voted 5-4 Monday evening to table a motion to use a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) in the construction of a new district high school. A PLA is a comprehensive, pre-hire collective bargaining agreement. Members of the area's construction trade say a PLA would help keep much of the project's workers local.

Board member Russ Bigus made the motion to use a PLA and Gary Mathers seconded the motion. However, Richard Orlovski moved to table the motion, seconded by Richard Coslett. The board approved the table, which means the PLA issue must appear on the agenda of the next board meeting, which is at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 18.

Bigus fears Monday will be too late to add a PLA since bids on the project were scheduled to be opened last Thursday. Area tradesmen filled the board meeting room to express their desire for the district to implement a PLA. Joseph Liparela, of LU 163 Union Electricians and a resident of the school district, asked the board to consider it.

"As far as I'm concerned for me and the rest of the local tradesmen, that's our best chance of working on the project," Liparela said.

Board President Karen Kyle says the board wants to make sure the bidding process is fair and competitive and was advised by the project's architects, Crabtree Rohrbaugh Associates, Inc., not to include a PLA in the project.

"The board's feeling was we would like everyone in the area to be able to work on this job, whether it's union or non-union," Kyle said.

The board considered requiring a certain percentage of the project to include local labor, but district solicitor Attorney Ben Jones researched the matter and

said such agreements were made illegal by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1984.

### School construction update

Craig Zimmerman of Crabtree Rohrbaugh & Associates, Inc. provided an update on the new high school project.

Zimmerman said Dallas Township supervisors have passed a resolution for a left-turn signal from Route 309 onto Hildebrandt Road as part of the construction project. Approval of the plans for the high school is also needed by the township. The Dallas Township Planning Commission is expected to approve the plans at a meeting tomorrow evening at the municipal meeting. Bids for the project are due on Thursday.

Crabtree representatives also presented the board with a color scheme design of the new school; however, members of the public at the meeting were not able to view the design because they did not have copies. The representatives also showed color samples to the board but had their backs turned to the public, making the samples unable to be seen.

The new high school is scheduled to be completed on May 20, 2011. It will open on Sept. 12, 2011, the first day of the 2011-12 school year.

### Emmanuel Bus Lines

Parent Aaron King addressed the board with concerns about Emmanuel Bus Lines, the district's school bus provider. King complained that Emmanuel forces students from the daycare center on the campus of Misericordia University to walk down to the arches, which are about one-quarter mile from the center. King is also upset that the bus drivers talk on their cell phones while transporting children and allow buses to idle at the schools.

King said Superintendent Frank Galicki has spoken to the company, but the problems have not been resolved. Galicki said he

would meet with Emmanuel and Kyle said she would notify King of the meeting date so he could attend.

### Summer school hires

A resolution was adopted to approve personnel for the 2009 summer school program from June 15 through July 9 at 16 hours per week at the indicated rate per hour.

Reading staff, funded from Title I funds, are Sharon Hartshone, \$38.15; Heather Pitcavage, \$32.70; Kristy Taylor, \$32.70; Colleen Williams, \$32.70; Betsy Jerome, \$32.70; Marla Martin, \$32.70; Angel Bestwick, \$38.15; Rachel Hayes, \$27.30; Angela Lizonitz, \$27.30; Amy Williams, \$27.30; Erin Lypka, \$27.30; Carolyn Hummer, \$38.15; and Joan Rakowski, \$38.15.

Math staff, funded from district funds, are Christiana Baron, \$38.15; Jennifer Yanuskavich, \$27.30; Amber Bennett, \$27.30; Laura Mitchell, \$27.30; Mike Viglone, \$38.15; Karen Kovaleski, \$27.30; Crystal Seidel, \$32.70; Regan Paley, \$32.70; Fred Weaver, \$27.30; Nicole Valkenburg, \$27.30; and Michelle Beutel, \$32.70.

Nurses, funded from Title I funds, are Bonnie Kalish, \$38.15; Linda Burd, \$38.15; and Suzanne Attanasio, \$18.09.

Aides, funded from Title I funds, are Carole Broehl, \$8.59; and Sharon Mayernick, \$8.82.

### Hires

A resolution was adopted to appoint Nancy Merithew as secretary to the board of school directors for a four-year term to expire on May 31, 2013, at an annual salary of \$5,000 which reflects no increase to her current salary as secretary.

The board decided to wait until its Monday, May 18 meeting to vote on whether or not to appoint Attorney Benjamin Jones as solicitor for the district for the 2009-10 fiscal year at a 4 percent increase of his current salary of

\$34,476.

### Resignations

The board accepted the resignation of Linda Barber, a housekeeper at Dallas Middle School, for retirement purposes, effective June 29, 2009. Barber worked for the district for 19 years.

The board also accepted the resignation of Melanie Moore, a Title I reading aide at Dallas Elementary School, effective May 14, 2009.

### Volunteers

Additional volunteers were approved for Dallas Elementary School for the current school year. The volunteers are Kurt Manganella, Luke Mamola, Lee Rinehart, Stanley Blockus, Michael Polachek, Michael Zondlo and Richard Oley.

Michael Labaugh was approved as a volunteer boys/girls assistant swim coach for the 2009-10 season.

## LAKEWAY BEVERAGE OPENS IN LEHMAN



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

John Kaschenbach, left, and his co-partners, Dorothy and Joe Skibitsky, of Sweet Valley, have opened Lakeway Beverage, a beer distributorship on Route 118. The 500 square foot store carries a large inventory of imported and craft beers. The Skibitskys had retired "but not for too long" and customers will remember them as the former owners of Union Beverage in Luzerne. Lakeway Beverage features 108 feet of shelving and a state-of-the-art refrigeration system.

## Jackson Twp. supervisors vote to go 'green'

By EILEEN GODIN  
Dallas Post Correspondent

Discussion over grants to help the municipality go "green" and a motion to join the Back Mountain Conservation District explained how rainwater collected from the roof of the pavilion can be stored, filtered and used to wash hands.

The township will go "green" to do its part for the environment and has applied for a Department of Environmental Protection Federal Stimulus grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund some new changes.

Chairman John J. Wilkes is unsure how much the township will receive but hopes to install a

rainwater retention system to provide water for outdoor sinks at the Jackson Township Recreation Park. He said information he received from the Luzerne Conservation District explained how rainwater collected from the roof of the pavilion can be stored, filtered and used to wash hands.

A second rainwater retention system to collect water from the roof of the municipal building will also be installed. Water from this system will be used to wash police cars and other municipal vehicles.

Through the same grant, the supervisors plan to replace the municipal building's leaky roof

with a building green roof project and apply a blacktop surface to Cigarski Road.

A motion to join forces with local municipalities under the Back Mountain Community Partnership was approved.

In other news, supervisors reported the street address confusion will end soon with the help of the Luzerne County 911 office.

A physical street number will be determined and assigned.



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