

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Final budget passes; executive salaries are approved

By REBECCA BRIA
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Members of the Dallas School Board approved a final budget Monday evening for the 2009-10 fiscal year in the amount of \$30.58 million.

The tax millage, originally estimated to be 10.4303 mills, will be 10.6498 mills. District business manager Grant Palfev said the initial estimate did not factor in the impact of construction and renovation to schools.

There will also be a per capita tax of \$10, an earned income tax of one percent shared equally with municipal governments and an emergency municipal services tax of \$52 shared as \$5 for the district and \$47 in municipalities that have enacted such a tax. The budget is available for review at the district administration office.

Homestead and farmstead tax exclusion

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will pay the school district \$315,397.39 as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds. The district will also receive \$4,979.42 from the PDE as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the district earned income tax by district residents who work in Philadelphia.

The total amount of \$320,376.81 will be used for real estate tax reduction in approved homestead and farmstead properties. There are 5,978 approved homesteads and 33 approved farmsteads in the school district. Because the school board has decided that the homestead and farmstead exclusion amounts will be equal, according to the above numbers, approved homestead and farmstead property owners will receive a maximum real estate tax deduction of

\$53.59 on their tax bills.

Executive salaries

The board approved the salaries of the superintendent, assistant superintendent and director of technology for the 2009-10 school year. The salaries for the respective positions are Frank Galicki, \$103,000; Paul Reinert, Ph.D., \$95,200; and William Gartrell, \$84,000.

There was deliberation among the board over what to pay Palfev after board member Russ Bigus requested a pay increase from \$72,100 to \$84,000, arguing that Palfev is deserving of the raise after saving the district thousands of dollars in his position. It was originally proposed that Palfev be paid \$74,300 next year.

"This represents an increase of over 13 percent and two years ago we gave him an increase of over 16 percent," said board member Richard Orlowski. Board member Catherine We-

ga's motion to pay Palfev \$80,000 was narrowly approved by the board.

Groundbreaking

Galicki announced that the groundbreaking for the new Dallas High School will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16. The new high school will be built next to the current high school, which will be demolished.

Hires

The following employees were hired by the school board: Kelly McKenzie, water safety instructor and lifeguard for the summer, \$15 an hour; Janelle Jacob, summer school reading teacher, \$27.30 an hour; Maria Brody, temporary reading recovery teacher leader, \$40,469; LorieAnn Carmody, special education teacher, \$45,189; Marcus Sowcik, temporary special education teacher, \$39,164; Kristyn Ecenrode, elementary teacher,

\$45,478; Megan McAndrew, temporary elementary teacher, \$36,765; and Meredith Ohl, part-time social science teacher, \$28.35 an hour for 3.5 hours a day.

The following senior high coaches were hired for the 2009-10 fall sports season: Ted Jackson Jr., John McNeil and Robert Mahle, all assistant football coaches at \$3,976; and Amanda Jez, assistant field hockey coach, \$2,373.

The following middle school coaches were hired for the 2009-10 fall sports season: Marjorie Adams, assistant-in-charge of cross country, \$1,919; Amy Rome, assistant cross country coach, \$664; Russell Eyt, assistant-in-charge of soccer, \$1,532; Luke Ruseskas, assistant soccer coach, \$841; Anthony Chiarucci, assistant-in-charge of football, \$3,295; Anthony Marranca and Michael Dunn, both assistant football coaches at \$2,725; Nancy

Shaw, assistant-in-charge of field hockey, \$2,373; Lori Besecker, assistant field hockey coach, \$1,989; and Amy Scafella, \$1,808.

The following senior high coaches were hired for the 2009-10 winter sports season: Ted Jackson Jr., head boys basketball coach, \$6,235; Romayne Mosier, head swim coach, \$3,435; Michael Richards, head wrestling coach, \$6,235; and Matthew Samuel, winter track, \$919.

Substitutes

The following people were added to the substitute list: Alexandra Ingram, Rachel Kahn and Jessica Zmijewski, elementary special education; Amanda Kunkel, elementary; Gregory Pimm, social studies; Kimberly LaNunziata and Donna Matcho, nurses; and Tena Dieffenbach, aide.

Rebecca Bria is a staff writer for The Dallas Post. You can reach her at 970-7436.

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Residents thankful for burner ordinance

Outdoor wood burners must be registered, inspected by code enforcement officer.

By REBECCA BRIA
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North Lehigh Street resident Mark Albrecht and several of his neighbors thanked township officials Wednesday night for their help in creating a wood-burner ordinance.

Supervisors enacted an ordinance to regulate the use of outdoor wood burners in March 2008 after residents on the street complained of respiratory problems from heavy smoke that was emitted from a nearby wood burner.

The residents say they were in court on May 20 about the burner's violation of the ordinance in front of county Judge Peter Paul Olszewski, who ruled in their favor. Township solicitor Ben Jones helped prepare the litigation.

The burner is owned by Ed Grysevicz, of North Lehigh Street. Grysevicz told the supervisors in 2008 that he purchased his burner two years before because it became too expensive to heat his home solely with electricity.

The wood-burner ordinance requires owners of existing furnaces to register their units with the township and have them inspected by the code enforcement officer to determine compliance with its manufacturer's installation specifications and use instructions.

The inspection must be made within 90 days of the effective date of the ordinance. It also requires owners of new burners to purchase a \$40 permit and have

the unit inspected within 30 days of the installation.

Violations of the ordinance result in a fine of up to \$500, plus prosecution costs.

Emergency ordinance

Supervisors tabled a motion to adopt an emergency ordinance that would amend an existing ordinance to designate an ambulance association as the township's first responder.

All township emergency medical services calls are currently handled by the Kingston Township Ambulance & Rescue Association.

It was unclear as to what the amendment to the ordinance would be and township Manager Kathleen Sebastian said the matter is not ready for public discussion.

Because the motion was tabled, or postponed, by law it must appear on the agenda at next month's regular supervisors' meeting.

Light installation

The supervisors authorized the installation of spotlights and lights on a shed at the Kingston Township Recreation Center. The request for the lights came from Gary Capitano of the Kingston Township Raiders, a youth football organization that plays at the recreation center field.

The lights will be on a separate meter and the Kingston Township Raiders will be responsible for all costs associated with them, including monthly usage fees. The switch to the lights will be secured by lock and key. Emergency officials will have access to the keys because the lights would need to be turned off if a medical helicopter had to land in the field.

Public hearings

Two separate public hearings will be held at the next regular supervisors' meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 8.

The first public hearing will be to discuss the approval of a liquor license transfer from Carm's Sports Zone in Exeter to North 145, Inc., which operates as Libby's Diner. The second hearing will be about a proposed ordinance to enact a local services tax for 2010, the old emergency services tax. The tax would require a \$52 deduction from the pay of people who work in the township, with \$47 going to the township and \$5 to Dallas School District.

Supervisor John Solinsky noted his strong opposition for the local services tax ordinance.

Water main improvements

Approval was granted for Pennsylvania American Water Company to do water main improvements on Hickory and Maple Streets. Several fire hydrants will also be replaced as part of the improvements, which are expected to begin in about one month.

Chairman of supervisors Jeffrey Box thanked the water company for agreeing to comply with a township ordinance that requires resurfacing of the roads after the work is complete.

Energy efficiency grant

The supervisors authorized township manager Kathleen Sebastian to apply for a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Pennsylvania Conservation Works, which provides funds for municipi-

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DUMC WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

The Dallas United Methodist Church welcomed two new members into its church family on Sunday, May 31. Krista Zimmerman and Katie Jobson became the newest members at a special service after spending many weeks in confirmation class. A reception hosted by their parents and family members was held after the service. From left, are Zimmerman, The Rev. Earl W. Robert III and Jobson.

Doran honored for 40 years

Bob Doran was the recipient of a 40-year service award at the Employees Service Awards Luncheon held at Mercy Center on May 14.

Doran received a standing ovation from fellow employees as he accepted his award from Sr. Sara Sweeney, administrator.

Mercy Center was a convent in 1968 when Doran began his new job in the laundry department. A few years later, he joined the maintenance staff and, in 1980, transferred to the Dietary Department where he has worked ever since.

Doran can often be heard saying, "The people (at Mercy Center) are good to work for and it's a nice place."

Doran was raised in northeast Pennsylvania and lived most of his years in Shavertown. He enjoys bowling, golf and music, knows how to play the organ and occasionally will play a tune on the keyboards at Mercy Center.



Bob Doran was honored for 40 years of service at Mercy Center.

Everyone who knows Doran affectionately calls him "Bobby."

When asked about his longev-

ity at Mercy Center, he says, "It just takes patience; just do what your job is."

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