

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Future of township building to be determined

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Opening its doors in 1924, the Dallas Township School building has seen many students make the grade. Now, the building itself must pass a structural test. The building's future is being determined by the soundness of its "bones."

School board members have been kicking around ideas about the fate of the former school building. Some ideas on the table are first to determine the feasibility of renovating it, then leasing it with the option of buying it back if room for expansion is needed, selling it, or demolishing the structure if it is

determined to be unsafe. On Monday night, school board members listened to three architectural/engineering firms who have visually inspected the building.

Jim California and Jeff Kaminski with Buchart, Horn Basco Associates of York, said their evaluation of the building left some questions unanswered. The men told the school board a more in-depth analysis is needed to determine if the structural framing of the building is sound.

"We would need to remove surfaces like plaster, metal lath, floors and drop ceilings to investigate the bones of the building," Kaminski said. "The foundation is not showing any

"It is a durable building. Although the roof does leak, it is not sagging. You have something to work with here."

Allen Roth
On condition of Dallas Twp. School building

signs of serious settlement."

Allen Roth, vice-president of Joseph B. Callaghan Inc. of Philadelphia, said a more comprehensive inspection will be needed but his visual inspection of the site leads him to believe the building is "very salvageable."

He said the district would be looking at a price tag of \$250,000 to 300,000 to demolish the building.

"It is a durable building,"

Roth said. "Although the roof does leak, it is not sagging. You have something to work with here."

Greg Marks, forensic engineer with Barry Isett and Associates of Hazleton, said his feelings on the building were "relatively good."

Marks said he would need two to two and a half days to perform a physical inspection of the building at which time he

would plan to cut holes in the plaster ceilings in strategic areas to "get a full scope of the situation."

"We all know the roof leaks, but how has that affected the building?" Marks asked.

School board member Gary Mathers said it is tough to say what the building would be used for when the current structural strength is unknown. Superintendent Frank Galicki agreed.

After hearing the news, school board members agreed to review the information provided and table any decision until the December 14 meeting.

In other news, the following members have been reappointed to the school board: Dr. Bruce

M. Goeringer, president; Russell Bigus, vice-president; Charlie Preece, new member, Karen Z. Kyle, Dr. Richard G. Coslett, and Maureen Matiska approved for a second four-year term.

Cathy Wega was unanimously voted to replace Richard Orlovski for a two-year term as representative to the West Side Career Technology Center. Gary Mathers was nominated for a three-year term.

Preece was nominated and approved to serve as board secretary. Goeringer and Matiska were approved as representatives to the Back Mountain Library Board while Kyle and Preece were nominated and accepted as representatives to the Parent Advisory Council.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

Two bridges will be replaced next year

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Luzerne County Engineer Joseph Gibbons accepted an invitation to attend Jackson Township's Monday night meeting to discuss two proposed bridge replacements.

Gibbons told supervisors two bridges, one by the Farmers Inn on Huntsville Road and another near the corner of Chase and Hillside Roads, are scheduled to be replaced starting in 2010. The replacement bridges are prefabricated and will still have the look of a natural field stone bridge.

Last month, Bernie Banks from American Asphalt raised concerns that, without the use of a temporary bridge, the proposed bridge projects would cause traffic tie-ups and delayed response time for emergency vehicles.

Gibbons confirmed temporary bridges would not be installed during construction and said vehicles would have delayed access through the site.

Secretary Denise Rittinger said one bridge is too close to The Lands at Hillside Farms, a National Historic Site, for a temporary bridge.

Work on the bridges will begin in 2010 with the bridge on Huntsville Road near The Farmers Inn being the first.

In other news ...
• Supervisors passed a resolution to allow Quad 3 Architectural, Engineering and Environmental Science Group of Wilkes-Barre to study and design a possible sewer project for Bulford Farms.

Rittinger said, when a system is developed, it will have to pass the Dallas Area Municipal Authority's requirements and then be presented to the supervisors for review.

• Supervisors announced that their end-of-year meeting to pass the \$1,103,616 proposed budget is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 23, in the municipal building.

At this time, no increase in the current mill rate of .6643 is projected. The mill rate is \$1 for every \$1,000 assessed in tax value.

The proposed budget is available for public viewing in the municipal building.

• Supervisors will hold their re-organizational meeting at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 4, in the municipal building. The regular monthly meeting will follow.



Officers past and present of the St. Therese's Altar and Rosary Society are, from left, seated, Shirley Type, Patsy Balonis, Carole Paxton and Patti Gallagher. Standing, Dell Luke, Alice Hudak, Alice Solinsky and Fr. James Paisley

St. Therese's Altar & Rosary Society holds tea and elects new officers

Member of the Altar & Rosary Society of St. Therese's Church in Shavertown gathered recently for the annual Christmas luncheon. New officers were installed during the event.



Long-time friends Millie Yanchik, left, and Margaret Reinert catch up on old times at the St. Therese's Altar and Rosary Society Luncheon.



Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Franklin Township Fire Hall at 2 p.m. today to deliver gifts for all good boys and girls.

Santa coming to Franklin Twp.

The Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company will host its annual children's Christmas party today, Dec 13.

Santa will arrive by fire truck at 2 p.m. after he tours the neighborhoods looking for good little girls and boys. He and Mrs. Claus will be at the fire hall with a bag full of

goodies for the children.

The fire company will provide light refreshments for everyone as well as crafts and face painting for children.

The fire company is located at 329 Orange Rd. (an extension of Eighth St.) For more information, call one of Santa's elves at 333-5970.



Quilters of the St. Therese's Altar and Rosary Society are, from left, Millie Yanchik, Ruth Youngblood, Joan Colatosti, Peggy Fischer and Patti Gallagher.