

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Old Dallas Township High School is 'sound'

By REBECCA BRIA
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Members of the Dallas School Board learned on Jan. 11 that the old Dallas Township High School is structurally sound.

Allen Roth, vice president of Joseph B. Callaghan Inc. of Philadelphia, began examining the school on Jan. 10. Roth told the board that, upon preliminary examination, he has found the school building "in generally very good condition."

The board hired Joseph B. Callaghan Inc. to perform a structural evaluation of the school before deciding whether to keep or demolish the building.

Roth said the use of the building would be restricted to a classroom or light office environment and would not be able to be used as a storage or assembly area, a gymnasium or a cafeteria. He estimates the school can be

renovated from a structural standpoint for between \$100,000 and \$150,000 but stressed he did not want to be held to those preliminary numbers.

Board president Bruce Goeringer asked if the building contains asbestos, but Roth said because he is not an industrial hygienist, he could not answer the question.

Roth noted the board should not delay its decision regarding the building for five or 10 years as it needs general maintenance if it is to be saved.

Tax rate

The board passed a resolution agreeing to set the tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year at or below the index rate of 3.4 percent, as required by Act 1. The index for the district is established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

According to the district's 2009-2010 fiscal budget, the mil-

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lage rate for the current tax rate is 10.6498 mills. A mill is a \$1 tax on every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Change orders approved

The board approved five change orders related to the new high school construction project for a total of \$55,781.11.

The change orders include installation of property line security fence, adding handrails at the maintenance loading dock, wall finishes at the maintenance building offices, wall finishes at the maintenance central storage and revision of ducts in the main-

tenance building mezzanine.

The total from change orders to date is \$292,960.11. There was over \$1.2 million in contingency on the project and \$955,159.89 remains in contingency.

Project status

Bob Nesbit, of Crabtree Rohrbach & Associates, updated the board about the status of the high school project.

Nesbit said the new maintenance building is six to seven weeks behind schedule due to ductwork placed in the mezzanine. The ductwork will be relocated as part of a change order.

According to Nesbit, the high school is approximately three to four weeks behind due to the recent cold weather; however, even though the weather has impacted the project, the contractor did not ask for any weather days in December or so far in January.

PIAA appeal

The board voted to appeal the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association's ruling in December to suspend head football coach Ted Jackson for one year. Jackson is accused of allegedly telling his players to urinate on the tennis courts at Tunkhannock High School during a Sept. 18 football game last year.

Personnel

Kathleen Geraghty was hired as a part-time reading teacher, effective Jan. 12, 2010, through the end of the school year at a rate of \$28.35 per hour.

The following resignations were accepted: Deborah Decker, a housekeeper at the high school, effective Dec. 23, 2009; Maria Brody, part-time reading teacher, effective Jan. 11, 2010.

An extended leave of absence was approved for Crystal Seidel, a fifth-grade teacher at Dallas Elementary School, through March 23, 2010. Seidel's leave of absence was originally for Oct. 1, 2009 through Jan. 19, 2010.

Lunch money Web site

Approval was granted for the district to enter into an agreement with mylunchmoney.com to allow parents to set up an account to monitor if they choose. The Web site allows parents to electronically deposit money into their child's lunch account and to monitor their child's meals.

A fee of \$1.95 will be charged for each electronic deposit into an account.

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Supervisors vote against tax forgiveness on Spring St. home

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Paul Sedesky learned on Jan. 13 that Kingston Township will not forgive back taxes on property he recently purchased.

The board of supervisors voted in October 2009 to forgive \$150.50 in owed real estate taxes on 51 Spring St. upon the sale and demolition of the property.

Sedesky, who lives at 53 Spring St., bought 51 Spring St. in November 2009. He has since decided not to demolish the home and asked the supervisors to still forgive the taxes.

The home at 51 Spring St. was condemned and was nicknamed "the cat house" after 42 cats were pulled from it in 2006. Sedesky says he spent over \$3,000 to haul 32 tons of trash from the home after he purchased it.

Chairman of supervisors James Reino told Sedesky the board revisited the matter at its work session on Jan. 11 and that no one made a motion to forgive the taxes now that the property will not be demolished.

Supervisor John Solinsky added that, although the amount may not seem like a lot, forgiving it would set a precedent for doing so on other properties.

"If we forgive one of them, we'd have to forgive all and I'm not prepared to do that," Solinsky said.

BOND REFINANCING

The supervisors approved a parameter ordinance for refinancing the 2003 bond issue.

"If we forgive one of them, we'd have to forgive all and I'm not prepared to do that."

Township Supervisor John Solinsky
On decision not to forgive property taxes

The ordinance does not refinance the bond but allows the supervisors to refinance more quickly if the bond interest rates fall.

TOWNSHIP SECRETARY

A previous motion to appoint Shirley Moyer as township secretary was rescinded and Frank Natitus was appointed as township secretary. Reino said Moyer did not want the position.

TRUCK REPAIR

Approval was granted for the township manager to disburse up to \$8,500 to replace the truck box on the township's 1994 GMC truck.

AMBULANCE

The supervisors voted for the township solicitor and manager to put together a resolution to name Kingston Township Volunteer Ambulance Association as the township's basic life support ambulance provider. The resolution would also properly identify the organization which recently merged with Trucks-ville Volunteer Fire Co.

HOLIDAY HOUSE WINNERS

The winners of the township's 2009 Holiday House Contest were announced. The contest was to determine the four township homes that were decorated the best for the holidays.

The first-place winner was Joseph Kaleta, 195 Bunker Hill Rd., \$60; second-place winner was Richard Connors, 205 Bunker Hill Rd., \$55; third-place winner was Richard Holthaus Jr., 20 Division St., \$45; and fourth-place winner was Evelyn Horntz, 306 Echo Valley Estates, \$40.

Each winner will receive a Lowe's gift card in the respective prize amount they were awarded.

DAMA REPRESENTATIVE

The supervisors amended a motion made at their reorganization meeting, appointing Joseph Youngblood from a two-year term to a five year-term as the township's representative to the Dallas Area Municipal Authority.

CO-STARS

A motion was approved to purchase road materials through the Co-Stars program in 2010.

Reino said Co-Stars allows the township to get the state bid price on materials which can save money. The township used Co-Stars last year and it worked out well, he said.

Rebecca Bria is a staff writer for The Dallas Post. She can be reached at 970-7436.



The Back Mountain Police Association's first "Warm Coats for Kids" will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 23 and 24, at Misericordia University. Organizing the event are, from left, Michael A. MacDowell, president, Misericordia University; Sister Jean Messaros, vice president, student affairs; Ross Piazza, deputy waterways conservation officer of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; and Kingston Township Police Officer Martin C. Maransky.

Back Mountain Police Association will distribute warm coats to kids

First event set for next Saturday and Sunday at Misericordia University.

New and gently-used winter jackets, hats, gloves and scarves will be available for free to children in need from the greater community during the Back Mountain Police Association's first "Warm Coats for Kids" from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 23 and 24, at Misericordia University.

Members of the Back Mountain Police Association placed collection boxes at participating businesses in Back Mountain and West Side communities to collect donated items and also held three collection drives at Thomas' Family Markets in Shavertown.

Family members can select a

coat and matching gloves and hats for their children from among more than 100 winter jackets and accessories at Misericordia University's Black Top Lounge, located behind Alumnae and McGowan halls on campus. Visitors should enter campus through the main archway gate on Lake Street.

Misericordia University students and members of the Back Mountain Police Association will sort through and organize the winter garments to make it easier for families and children to find their proper sizes. Representatives from regional social service agencies who know of children in need of winter jackets are also invited to select items at the annual event.

The Back Mountain Police Association includes officers from the Back Mountain and West

Side municipal police departments, including the state Fish and Boat Commission, state Game Commission and state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Kingston Township Police Officer Martin C. Maransky is president and Piazza is vice president of the Back Mountain Police Association.

The Back Mountain Police Association has been serving and supporting law enforcement departments in the Back Mountain and West Side communities for more than 50 years.

For more information about the Back Mountain Police Association's "Warm Coats for Kids" at Misericordia University, contact Ross Piazza, deputy waterways conservation officer of the state Fish and Boat Commission, at 760-9342.

'American Stars of Tomorrow' comes to Music Box Playhouse next weekend

Original music revue features area's most talented children.

The Music Box Repertory Company will present "American Stars of Tomorrow," an original musical revue featuring 20 of the area's most talented children and young adults.

They will perform music from Broadway shows, the world of pop music, popular patriotic songs and even a little bit of country.

Performance dates are 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 22 and 23, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 24.

The musical revue is directed

by Debbie Zehner and co-directed by Dana Feigenblatt and Cate McDonald.

Musical director is by Nancy Evans.

Back Mountain members of the cast include Amanda Foote, age 15, a Dallas High School student; Angelena Allen, age 9, and Michael Quinnan, age 8, Dallas Elementary School students; Winter Wenner, age 16 and Ronnie Ziomek, age 13, Lake-Lehman Junior/Senior High School students.

Tickets, which will be available at the door, are \$12 for adults and \$10 for children, students and senior citizens.

For reservations, call the box office at 283-2195.

Back Mountain members of the cast include Amanda Foote, Angelena Allen, Michael Quinnan, Winter Wenner and Ronnie Ziomek.

The "Stars" are, from left, first row, Kayla Raniero, Angelena Allen, Michael Quinnan, Natlie Zarad, Amella Sack and Michaela Dennis. Second row, Amanda Foote, Maggie Dishong, Maia Bagusky, Saraea Kaplan, Anna Markoch, Amanda Shaffern and Ronnie Ziomek. Third row, Valerie Norton, Skyler Makuch, Winter Wenner, Anna Smith and D.J. Markoch.

