

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Proposed budget calls for 3.4 percent tax increase

By REBECCA BRIA
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The Dallas School Board on May 24 passed, by a vote of 6-2, a proposed 2010-11 fiscal year final budget that would increase taxes by 3.4 percent.

The \$31,179,346 spending plan calls for a property tax rate of 11.0118 mills compared to the 2009-10 budget's 10.6498 mills. A mill is a \$1 tax for every \$1,000 in assessed property value.

District business manager Grant Palfey said there will be a \$55.59 increase to the average taxpayer under the new budget.

Board members Karen Kyle and Maureen Matiska voted against the budget. Board member Dennis Gochoel was absent due to serving

overseas in the military.

The budget also consists of a \$10 per capita tax, an earned income tax of 1 percent shared 50/50 with municipal governments and an emergency municipal services tax of \$52. Dallas School District receives \$5 of the \$52 emergency municipal services tax and the remaining \$47 goes to municipalities that have enacted such a tax.

In January, the board members 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.

District superintendent Frank Galicki said attrition and restructuring cut almost \$500,000 from

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the 2010-2011 budget.

Galicki gave instances of three full-time positions that will be filled differently in the coming school year.

First, Galicki said the district's director of special education is retiring and will not be replaced. Instead, principals and administrators will take on extended responsibilities with special education and when the need arises, a consulting service will be used, he said.

Galicki said the position of a retiring physical education teacher at

the middle school will be filled by a part-time person who will be paid hourly and will not receive benefits. Also, the position of assistant director of buildings and grounds will be eliminated, Galicki said.

According to Galicki, another big savings will be the return of vision services for visually-impaired children to the district from Luzerne Intermediate Unit. Galicki said a part-time reading teacher who is dually certified in vision and specialized reading will work in both areas.

Another savings will be handing

over the responsibility of the substitute, staff development and summer guidance budgets to the four building principals, Galicki said. An example of savings would be having a teacher cover an additional class when another teacher takes off half a day, he said.

Kyle said she and Matiska never agreed to vote the same way on the budget, indicating she voted against the preliminary budget for three reasons.

First, she does not support the hiring of a special education director or coordinator and feels the \$16,000 budget for special education consulting services does not appear to be adequate.

"My concerns are based upon past litigation over principal's decisions made on IEPs (Individual-

ized Education Programs) and our increased special needs population and the services provided by district employees, not the LIU," she said.

Next, Kyle said the preliminary budget demotes the full-time technologist to part-time with no health care benefits.

"The district currently has a director of technology and an instructional technologist and we have made outstanding progress in the use of classroom and administrative technology by our administrators, teachers, students and parents," she said. "The use of technology in delivering instruction and communicating with parents is only expected to increase in the future

See BUDGET, Page 12

GOH MAY CROWNING HELD



The second-grade class of Gate of Heaven School celebrated the month of May by honoring Mary, mother of Jesus, with a special mass and adorning her with flowers. From left, first row, are Sean Bolland, Caitlin Blaum, Cheyanna Hillman, Nicole Joanlanne, Ryan Maloney, Tyler Osipow and James Frederick. Second row, Morgan Landau, Sam Oley, Jacob Brennan, Sydney Horlein, Jake Janosky, Carly Cavanaugh, Lyndsey Horlein, John Canfando, AJ Bednar, Morgan Patla and Christian Diana. Third row, Hunter Love, Crown Bearer; and Halee Kush, May Queen.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Trip planned to Sight and Sound theater

The Orange United Methodist Church is sponsoring a trip to Sight and Sound theater in Lancaster on September 18 to see "Joseph."

Cost is \$99 for adults, \$71 for teens ages 13-18 and \$49 for children ages 3-12.

For more information, contact Jenn at 855-9693.

Bake sale planned

A Memorial Day weekend bake sale will be held after all masses today, Sunday, May 30, at Our Lady of Victory Church, Harveys Lake.

Homemade baked goods will be available for purchase.

Service will honor veterans

A Memorial Day service to honor all veterans is scheduled for 9:15 a.m. today, May 30, at the Sweet Valley Church of Christ, 5439 Main

Rd., Sweet Valley.

For more information, call 477-2320.

Rummage sale planned

The women of the Orange United Methodist Church, 2293 W.8th St., Orange, will hold their Annual Spring Rummage Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church hall on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5.

Food, refreshments and Welsh cookies will be available for purchase.

The church is located at the end of West 8th Street in the village of Orange. For more information, call 333-4626.

Chicken dinner set

A chicken and biscuits dinner/bake sale will be held from

4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 12, at the Loyalville United Methodist Church.

Cost is \$8 for adults and \$3.50 for children under the age of 12.

Take-outs are available by calling 477-3521 and leaving a message with your name, phone number, number of dinners requested and pickup time.

Music event planned

The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army are joining forces to present "Music of Hope for the Silent City" from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 26, at the River of Life Fellowship Ekklesia Coffeehouse, 22 Outlet Rd., Lehman.

A free-will donation will be taken at the door. For more information, call 823-7161 or 824-8741.



Carole Kennelly's 'Cow'lection was on display at the Back Mountain Memorial Library during the month of May.

'Cow'lection displayed at library

Carole Kennelly's "Cow"lection was on display for the month of May at the Back Mountain Memorial Library.

A resident of Trucksville, Kennelly grew up in England and has been collecting cows for over 20 years.

She first got interested in them when she visited Jersey in the channel islands and bought a stuffed cow. She gradually added more to her collection, purchasing some at rummage sales, receiving some as gifts and later adding items in the kitchen such as milk jugs.

Two of Carole's favorites in the collection are a flying cow that attaches to the ceiling and a stuffed cow wearing a fur coat.

"I like them because they are just so silly," she says.

Carole shares this memory from her childhood: "I grew up in England in a house next to a field. Cows would stick their heads into our garden and munch on the shrubs. Sometimes, they would

get loose and go running down our street with the farmer chasing after them."

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