

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board approves \$80,000 more in change orders

By EILEEN GODIN
Dallas Post Correspondent

Dallas School Board members were requested to approve a total of \$80,371.75 of construction change orders at their regular meeting Monday night.

Bob Nesbitt from Crabtree Rohrbaugh Associate Architects of Mechanicsburg told board members the new high school construction is 52 percent finished, but subcontractors Lobar Inc. and Apollo Group Inc. are seeking construction change orders that carry a heavy price tag.

Board members approved the construction change orders but have a plan to be reimbursed later. School board business manager Grant S. Palfey said the school board is "keeping score."

"That is why we always ask if this is an omission or an error," he said.

Palfey said keeping track of errors and omissions from the original agreement gives the district leverage to recoup the costs later.

"We can file a claim of errors and omissions against the contractor or sub-contractors," he said. "We have done this in the past and have been reimbursed a portion of the costs."

Lobar Inc. sought out a total of \$30,987.29 for five construction order changes which include items such as a transfer switch for the auditorium for \$6,010.03, \$16,225.47 to change the ceilings in the locker room, \$2,744.55 to add drywall ceilings in a corridor, \$3,177.66 to use split face colored block in the courtyard and \$2,829.58 for electrical work in the

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gym.

Apollo Group Inc. asked for 13 construction order changes, totaling \$62,384.46 but will give the district a credit of \$13,000. The credit is due to electrical wiring already in place in the vicinity where the access road off Hildebrandt Road will be placed.

Some of the items under Apollo Group's request include hand dryer, \$18,000; added stage requirements, \$9,524; exhaust fans

and hoods, \$3,409; lighting clarifications and revised drawings, \$4,155; and elevator pit power and lights, \$1,622.69.

Palfey said the school board was not pleased with the construction change orders but understands if the changes are not approved, construction on the project could be held up.

In other news ...
• Preparing for the start of a new school year, school board

members approved the school lunch fees for the 2010-2011 school year: elementary lunches, \$1.65; middle school lunches, \$1.75; senior high school lunches, \$1.90; and reduced price lunches, 40 cents.

Palfey said buses will be tracked by GPS and will have better timed arrivals. Another change with busing, Palfey said, is that drivers will have magnetic "empty" signs to be placed on the back of the bus to be viewed through the back windows. This should prevent a situation like last year when a student fell asleep on the bus and went undetected.

The following Emanuel Bus Lines Inc. drivers for the 2010-2011 school year have been approved and have credentials on file with the student support services coordinator: Jackie Backus, Robert R.

Brown, Ben Chopka, Greg CoBLEIGH, Jeffrey Emanuel, Jeffrey Emanuel II, Sally Emanuel, Sharon Evarts, Bruce Granahan, Judith Hartman, William Hartman, Eileen Headman, Robb Henderson, Kenneth Hislop, Christine Manzella, Eugene Martinchak, Darleen McGeehan, Rachel Miers, James Monahan, David Rowett, Eugina Shannon, Samantha Simonette, Joe Sharp, Debbie Stredny, Thomas C. VanHorn, Michelle Vannoy and Harry Weaver.

• Superintendent Frank Galicki reported that school bus routes would be posted on the school districts website as of Wednesday, Aug. 18.

• Due to the Labor Day weekend, the next school board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20, in the administration building.

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Officials disgusted with proposed government change

By RALPH NARDONE
For The Dallas Post

Officials at Kingston Township expressed their public angst against a proposed change in Pennsylvania law that will move the power of local governments to the Luzerne County Courthouse. They sent a "letter of protest" to state government legislators, including state representative Phyllis Mundy and state senator Lisa Baker according to their discussions at Wednesday night's regular meeting of the township supervisors.

The focus of the township's ire centers on senate bill 1357 and house bill 2431 which essentially force smaller townships to combine under county rule, according to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS).

Kingston Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian said both Baker and Mundy resisted, stating they will oppose the law.

"We don't want our township run by the county," Sebastian said. "If the new laws are approved, the entire Kingston Township government could disappear."

The PSATS called the house bill a "most onerous measure" and a "slap in the face to the founding fathers." Sebastian said the law was first introduced in Berks County and is starting to gain momentum in the northern part of the state.

Supporters say combining all municipalities under one central county rule would eliminate inefficient and re-

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dundant local governments. Sebastian said the residents of Kingston Township would be better served by a local government where they can voice their opinion instead of a large scale county-wide government.

Township officials also wrote a letter of protest to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) concerning proposed storm water guidelines, according to Sebastian.

She said the DEP wants to require the township to install a \$2,000 filter on all catch basins in the township and set up a regular maintenance and cleaning plan for each one. She did not say what the estimated costs would be to implement the plan but indicated they would be significant.

In addition, the DEP would require all residents with patios larger than 25 x 10 feet to install drainage systems.

In other business ...

• Supervisors voted to purchase a new unmarked police car at a cost of up to \$28,000. Police Chief James Balavage said the township should aim to purchase a Ford Crown Victoria since the township has

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Shown here during the 2009 Luzerne County Fair Princess Contest are, from left, Nicole Clemson, 2009 PA State Fair Queen; Kennedy Woods, 2009 Luzerne County Fair Princess; Leah Carr, 2009 PA State Fair first runner up; Krista Paluski, 2009 Luzerne County Fair Queen; and Channing Loke, 2009 Luzerne County first runner up.

Contestants sought for county fair princess

In conjunction with the Luzerne County Fair, there will be a Luzerne County Fair Princess Contest.

Contestants:

- must be at least 4 years old and no older than 6 years of age on Sept. 11, 2010.
- must reside in Luzerne County.
- must be dressed in a party dress
- must be prepared to tell a lit-

tle about themselves

• must have fun. The winner of the contest must be willing to take part in community events during the year.

In addition to a Luzerne County Fair Princess, a first and second runner-up will also be chosen.

Entry forms are available by contacting Trudy Clemson, c/o Luzerne County Fair, P.O. Box 393, Dallas, PA 18612.

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP

Positives of gas drilling discussed

By RALPH NARDONE
For The Dallas Post

Despite being bombarded by negative feedback over the last few months from anti-fracking groups concerning the influx of Marcellus shale drilling, the supervisors of Lehman Township expressed their support of the industry at Monday night's meeting. Several township residents were boisterous in their support as well.

Carl Kern, who owns trucks that provide service to drillers in Bradford County, said the public should listen to the positive side of drilling instead of the constant cacophony of protest.

For example, the companies are maintaining the roads they use, Kern said. In Lehman Township, if a road repair is necessary, the supervisors can call the company and the drilling companies will fix it, he added.

Township Chairman Dave Sutton concurred, adding that if the township must repair a road in an emergency situation, it will be reimbursed for the cost by the drillers.

"It's nice to hear something positive," Sutton said.

Kern discussed his support with state senator Lisa Baker and believes she is doing what she can to ensure the drilling "is done right."

He pointed out the pressure levels of the gas were underestimated which caused problems for the drilling equipment in the beginning. Now, the companies have upgraded to improve safety.

Vice Chairman Ray Iwanowski said drilling sites have less environmental impact than housing developments. He said the amount of negative environmental issues with developments are significant

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with respect to water runoff and the leaching of salt and oil from local roadways into water supplies. In addition, they result in more traffic and an overall strain on public services. The drillers leave a much smaller "footprint" on the land, he said.

Kern said, once a drilling site is finished, it can be quickly reclaimed into usable land. Some reclaimed sites are hardly noticeable in the northern tier part of Pennsylvania.

Todd DeRosa, a resident of Lehman Township currently leasing land for drilling, worries the anti-drilling effort may "spook" drilling companies out of the area, taking with them the economic benefits of their industry.

He and several other lease holders are in the process of formalizing a support group to get the word out about the benefits of the local gas industry.

One woman added the owners of the lease land are legally able to "exercise their mineral rights."

DeRosa emphasized he and other supporters understand the concerns of local residents. However, he said, if they take the time to ask township officials, they may learn it is not as harmful as it is being made out to be by local media and noisy opponents.

Iwanowski stressed the focus on water quality and volume associated with drilling

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LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board approves hires and retires, receives update on field project

By SARAH HITE
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It was business as usual for the Lake-Lehman School Board on Monday, Aug. 16 as members approved hires and retires and received an update on the field project between the junior-senior high school and Lehman-Jackson Elementary.

Terry Ostrowski of Borton-Lawson Engineers presented the board with an updated design plan for adjoining the space between the high school and Lehman-Jackson Elementary. The proposed plan features field hockey, soccer and football practice fields in the area between

the schools.

A previous plan, which Ostrowski called a "wish list," featured softball and baseball fields as well as walking paths and additional parking spaces. Ostrowski said the plan was revised due to budgeting issues and the firm wanted to present a plan that could be completed in the near future.

The design plan presented Monday evening would come to an estimated total of \$590,000, which would include the costs of clearing and grubbing the area, bringing in top soil, planting and seeding the grass and receiving permits to clear the area. The fields would not require irrigation or lighting fixtures be-

cause they are only practice areas.

"They would be dawn to dusk fields," said Ostrowski.

In other news, the board accepted the following four letters of retirement within the district: Carl Welter, first grade Ross Elementary teacher; Deborah Rowland, elementary guidance counselor; Sandra Stankiewicz, Lehman-Jackson Elementary cafeteria manager; and Patricia McCulloch, R.N., health assistant for Ross Elementary.

The board ratified the approval of the Shelter Agreement between the Wyoming Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Lake-Lehman School District for the use of

district facilities as an emergency shelter in the event of a disaster.

The board also voted:

- To advertise for the positions of SADD Advisor and elementary teacher(s).
- To appoint John McDonald of Harveys Lake to the position of In-School Suspension Monitor for the 2010-11 school year at a salary of \$13 per hour.
- To appoint Vanessa Wengert of Dallas as an Elementary Special Education Teacher in the district for the 2010-11 school year at a salary of \$40,355.
- To appoint the following persons as substitute teachers within the district, pending clearances: Matthew Nonnen-

burg, Thomas Bryan and Jamie King, all of Scranton.

• To appoint Alysia Jones of Edwardsville and Kathryn Mulligans of Wyoming as temporary Elementary Intervention Specialists in the district for the 2010-11 school year with salaries to be determined and paid through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.

• To authorize the reassignment of Lynne Ann Johns of Hunlock Creek from the position of part-time food service work to one-on-one aide at Lehman-Jackson Elementary for the 2010-11 school year at a salary of \$11.50 per hour.

• To appoint Maureen

McCabe of Noxen to the position of Instructional Para Professional for the 2010-11 school year at a salary of \$10.20 per hour.

• To appoint Patricia McCulloch of Inkerman as a substitute health assistant and nurse for the district.

• To appoint Pamela Groblewski of Dallas to the position of Lehman-Jackson Elementary cafeteria manager for the 2010-11 school year at an hourly rate of \$11.50 plus a one-time adjustment of \$1.10 to the hourly wage, in accordance with the LESPA Collective Bargaining Unit.

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