

The DALLAS POST

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Zoning board postpones compressor decision

Meeting moved to Dallas Middle School auditorium to accommodate crowd.

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

UP NEXT

The Dallas Township Zoning Hearing Board will continue to hear testimony for Chief Gathering LLC's application for zoning exceptions at 7 p.m. on Feb. 23 in the Dallas Middle School auditorium.

Hundreds packed the Dallas Middle School auditorium as testimony began Wednesday evening for Chief Gathering LLC's application for special zoning exceptions to build a natural gas compressor station 1,150 feet from the Dallas School District campus.

A natural gas compressor station takes gas from faraway wells and pressurizes it to send through the Transco pipeline and to market. Chief Gathering LLC submitted an application for special exceptions to Dallas Township on Jan. 21 because the zoning district does not explicitly permit or prohibit the type of facility proposed.

The board did not make a decision on the station and the hearing concluded with a plan for members of the board, the Dallas School District and the public to visit the company's Barto compressor station in Lycoming County at 1 p.m. on Feb. 18.

Prior to the start of the hearing, Dallas Township Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor William McCall announced that disturbances would not be tolerated as witnesses testified, and such disturbances could result in a swift end to the hearing and a move to a smaller venue that will not accommodate the crowd.

McCall also told the audience that one of the three board members, Conrad Higgins, has a right-of-way agreement with Chief Gathering LLC and will not actively participate in the proceedings. He will be allowed to listen to the testimony and contribute to the final decision should a third vote be needed.

Ted Wurfel, vice president of Environmental, Safety and Regulatory Affairs for Chief Gathering LLC, was the first witness called to testify by his lawyer, Jeffrey Ye-

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S. JOHN WILKIN/ THE DALLAS POST

The Dallas Middle School Auditorium was full as people listened to Ted Wurfel, vice president of Environmental Safety and Regulatory Affairs for Chief Gathering, LLC testify during a hearing with the Dallas Township Zoning Board.

District officials hopeful cameras curb bullying

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

State-of-the-art audio visual recording equipment was recently installed on 29 Dallas School District vehicles and the woman who brought the issue of bus bullying to the school board is looking forward to progress.

Laurie Russell, of Dallas, presented to the Dallas School Board in November about the dangers of bullies on school buses. Her concerns mostly involved elementary students - Russell has two young children and she works at Adventures in Learning

Daycare in Dallas, where she has heard many complaints from students about verbal and physical exchanges on buses.

"It didn't surprise me, but the extent of it did," she said. "It threw me off a bit. Everybody is more vicious these days."

Russell said she's heard stories about children getting punched in the face and shoved on buses. She said bus drivers might not be able to handle the situation on the road because their attention is focused on driving.

The new cameras have given drivers more eyes. Three cameras equip each bus - one in the front of the bus, one in the back

and one in the middle. The digital cameras, purchased through the Wolfington Body Co. in accordance with the state cooperative purchasing program, record audio and visual images and store information for up to 30 days.

"We took a look at a couple images and they are extremely clear," said Superintendent Frank Galicki. "We saw elementary students playing with iPods and games. It was great to see the kids getting along and, hopefully, we won't have any cases or problems with bullying."

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Bill Hartman, a driver for Emmanuel Bus Service, points to a camera above him. Dallas School District has had the bugs on its school buses installed as a safety consideration.



CHRIS WELCH



LOGAN DAVIS



KACI HOCKENBERRY



LAURYN LOMBARDO



ABBY JAYNE



LAUREN PALFEY

Second-graders weigh in about their most favorite Valentines

The Dallas Post asked second-graders at Dallas Elementary School who their special Valentine will be this year and why. Some students wanted to express

their love to their parents. Others had secret class crushes they could not reveal to us. Either way, the youngsters are celebrating Valentines Day with the ones they love.

Here's what they had to say:
"Everybody is my Valentine."
Chris Welch
Orange

"My mom and dad are my Valentines because I like them and they're nice to me."
Logan Davis

Dallas
"My friend Cooper in my class is my Valentine because he's always nice."
Clint Smith
Dallas

"My mom is my Valentine because she does lots of things for me and I love her a lot."
Meagan Manzelli
Shavertown

"My dad and mom are my Valentines because they do lots of things and I love them."
Gavin Sypniewski
Dallas

Dallas
"My mom and dad are my Valentines because I love them and they help me do stuff."
Lauren Palfey
Dallas

"My mom is my Valentine because she loves me and I love her, too."
Gavin Sypniewski
Dallas

"My dad and mom are my Valentines because they are nice to

me."

Wyoming
"Somebody in third grade is my Valentine - I don't know his name. He has a crush on me, too."
Natalya Raczkowski
Shavertown

"Abby is my Valentine because she's really nice to me."
Lauryn Lombardo
Dallas

"I can't say who my Valentine is - she's in my class. She's really

nice to me."

Shavertown
"My sister and brother are my Valentines because they're always nice to me."
Elizabeth Conofrey
Dallas

"My sister is my Valentine because she's nice all the time."
Daniel Cochran
Dallas

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