

# SUPER

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and Martin will serve for six years.

"I want what's best for this township, but give me half a chance to prove myself," said Martin. "Don't shove something down my throat that shouldn't really happen."

Wagner said he had a list of five residents in mind for the position and he questioned Dodson at length about his previous experiences serving the township. Dodson also serves on the township planning commission and ran for the position of supervisor against Wagner in 1976.

Howell told residents he didn't like the fact that many have said the supervisors have conducted "backdoor deals" concerning other issues, including negotiations made earlier this year with two natural gas companies regulating the construction of pipelines within the township.

"You all pride yourself on being all up front, and there's no backdoor deals, no backdoor meetings," said Martin. "This was proof. Jack Dodson being appointed tonight is a backdoor deal."

Resident Diane Dreier urged the supervisors to advertise the position to give all residents a "fair shot" to serve the township.

Wagner talked about his experiences serving the township since he was 16 years old, and expressed concern that another incoming supervisor might not have the same amount of knowledge he has accumulated about how the township works.

"...You got where you are because you never had a full room (of people) watching everything you were doing," said resident Jane Tolomello.

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The three supervisors have served the township together for more than 40 years. Howell has been an elected official within Dallas Township for 56 years.

Wagner thanked Walter and Howell for their combined more than 100 years of service and said both have done a great job over the years.

"We've had something glorious for 50 years in this township in terms of a unified leadership, and it was done magnificently," said Brennan. "I didn't come to appreciate it until I became a solicitor. But no matter how glorious things are, there comes a time when they pass on and it's to the next generation."

After the meeting, Dodson said he had no knowledge of Walter's resignation until the meeting.

He said he did visit Tupper's office to discuss "certificates of election" because he thought since he held a public position he would need such a document.

In other news, the board adopted its 2012 budget with no tax increases.

The board also accepted a bid from Bradco Supply of Towanda for the purchase of a 2007 all-wheel-driver grader in the amount of \$109,000.



Rock Solid Academy School officials announce the school's new location at the Twin Stacks complex in Dallas. From left, are school president Mark DiPippa and board of directors Roland Preisler, LuAnn Letoski, Lee Piatt, Joyce Hoban, Carolyn Oravitz, Jerry Harteis and Bill Norwig.

## Rock Solid Academy inks location deal

By SARAH HITE  
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Rock Solid Academy officials signed a lease with the owners of Twin Stacks Center on Dec. 19, confirming a location for the budding Christian school.

The school entered into a five-year lease for the 15,000-square-foot space, which was formerly occupied by InterMountain Medical Group. The health clinic moved to Shavertown about 18 months ago, said Rick Haas, an owner of Twin Stacks.

Chairman Jerry Harteis said the board has been scouting locations for the kindergarten through eighth-grade non-denominational Christian school for about eight months. One possible location included the former Gate of Heaven School in Dallas, which closed in June.

Head of School Mark DiPippa said the space in the Twin Stacks building will need to be com-

pletely renovated to make way for the school.

"It's real now," he said. "It's been a lot of planning and a lot of prayer - we've been talking about the school for two years now."

The facility will include nine classrooms, a foreign language room, a music room, a media room, an art room, a multipurpose area for athletics, an auditorium and a cafeteria.

The school is set to begin its first academic year in August 2012, and DiPippa hopes it will expand to offer high school-level classes by 2013.

"There is room to expand," he said.

DiPippa will continue to lead a founding campaign through 2012, and in addition to monetary donations, the school will accept donations of services for the renovation project.

The \$1.5 million founding campaign began in October and, to date, the school has raised

about \$220,000 towards an endowment and school development.

"We want to have an endowment to keep tuition down," said DiPippa.

He said Rock Solid Academy's capacity will be about 180 students, with 20 students in each grade. DiPippa added the school will hire about 12 full-time instructors and administrators and about 12 part-time staff members.

DiPippa said now that the location of Rock Solid Academy is confirmed, the board can work on tuition numbers, which should be prepared by January.

Lynn Banta, an owner of Twin Stacks, said the school will work well in the commercial center because the location works logistically and it fits into the personal philosophies of Twin Stacks' owners.

"I have a daughter who went to three different Christian schools, so I am aware and a

great supporter of this project," said Banta.

Dual entrances and exits will accommodate buses and vehicular traffic at the site, and the space is located at the end of the commercial building, leaving it "somewhat isolated," said Banta.

Haas added there are about 500 parking spots on the premises - double what the township zoning ordinance deemed sufficient. He said there may be about 150 spots nearest to the school available for use.

DiPippa said the facility will have an office and a sample classroom by mid-January.

He recently finished a tour this year of local Christian churches and said interest in the school is growing.

"We have been so well received and families are so excited to take part in this," he said. "Our focus is academic excellence and people are excited about that."



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