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How will Lehman schools survive?

By SARAH HITE
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Though it wouldn't solve all budgetary concerns, making changes to the district employee health care plan would save about \$1 million annually Lake-Lehman School District Superintendent James McGovern told an auditorium packed with residents at a town hall meeting Wednesday evening.

McGovern called the meeting to promote transparency, as he felt there were concerns and confusion about what the board was proposing in order to balance the

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James McGovern
Lake-Lehman Superintendent

budget.

The district is proposing to remove itself from the Northeast Pennsylvania Health Trust, a consortium of 11 districts formed to keep insurance costs low, in favor of a self-funded plan that could save about \$1 million a year.

The district was recently denied removal from the trust, as it

requires at least one year notice before a district can leave the group. McGovern proposed a motion for the trust to change its by-laws so the district could leave

more quickly.

Despite the denial, the district plans to continue to fight for the health care changes McGovern told residents, employees and parents.

"If I fail, I fail, but I'm not going to back off this and leave \$1 million on the table just because someone said I can't, or it's too hard," he said.

The district is facing a \$1.8 million deficit for the 2012-13 school

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AT RIGHT: Lake Lehman School District Superintendent Jim McGovern moderates a town hall meeting with parents and teachers at the high school auditorium on Wednesday to discuss funding the school budget for next year and beyond.



PETE G. WILCOX / THE TIMES LEADER

Sign will track progress of sign

By SARAH HITE
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MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Dallas Foundation, to make a donation or to suggest a project, visit www.ourdallasfoundation.org.

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The Dallas Foundation recently installed a sign in front of Dallas Elementary School off Hildebrandt Road to track the progress of its first major project — the installation of another sign.

The group hopes to raise enough funds to install a state-of-the-art electronic sign on State Route 309 to replace the current sign that dates back to the 1960s.

The sign in front of Dallas Elementary will be used to create public awareness of the project and to track its progress. It was created with the help of Dallas High School students and technology education teacher Marty O'Hora.

"My children created the Mountaineer design," said Chad Lojewski, a foundation board member.

Lojewski gave the design to O'Hora, and the students worked on the project between class assignments on a volunteer basis.

"We can only do so much as a foundation, and to have this kind of engagement so quickly was great," said Lojewski.

Lojewski said Gerard Geise, owner of Dallas Center Hardware, donated paint for the project and school officials, such as middle school principal Thomas Duffy, even helped in the sign's creation.

"We had complete support from administration," he said. "There were a lot of people involved."

Geise said the sign ties the Dallas Foundation and the district in with the community.

"The idea of the Dallas Mountaineer has been around since the 1960s, and now here he is brought to life," said Geise.

Lojewski said the goal of the foundation is to support students within the district, whether it be by providing supplies or creating scholarships, and he hopes the community will see it as a worthy cause.

"People get cautious during this kind of economy, and hopefully we can bridge the gap and help with budgetary concerns," said Lojewski.

David Simpson, vice president of the foundation, said the tracking sign will spur more fundraising projects and he hopes the community will become more vocal about what projects are needed within the district.

"They can come and ask us and bring forth ideas for projects," he said. "Our goal is to have the electronic sign up by this summer."

One of the several upcoming events in support of the foundation is a golf tournament to be held on June 22 at the Mill Race Golf Course in Benton.



CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

Melissa Jarnot, a teacher at Ross Elementary School, dresses in newspaper and buttons as she walks the runway to the adoring student body during a Trashion Show at the school.

Trashion show is huge success

By SARAH HITE
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"This is fantastic. The kids are just so excited."

Megan Nice
Teacher assistant

Tammy Keller of Fairmount Springs was the epitome of a bag lady at the first-ever Trashion Show at Ross Elementary School on April 27, but then again, she wasn't alone.

Her ensemble was created using various bags — crocheted plastic grocery bags made a mini skirt and a fancifully cut "feeder" bag was fashioned into a chic top. Keller's tote bag was one of the only things not made of bags — it was created by sewing empty juice pouches together.

"I had seen a similar bag at the store and it's very expensive," said Keller, whose niece and nephew, Sarah and Nathan Stanski, attend Ross Elementary. "I work at a preschool and my friends drink these so I just had them save them for me."

The Trashion Show was held in conjunction with Ross Elementary's daylong Earth Day celebration, a school-wide tradition for nearly 10 years.

Several other teachers and family members made costumes out of grocery bags, but found fashionable uses for other recyclable materials, too.

Ellen Boyer, of Ross Township, and her granddaughter Megan Hogan developed the idea for the woven magazine strip dress Boyer donned for the event.

The dress was accentuated with a foil bracelet, a necklace made out of a CD and drapery hooks, and a plastic container-turned-purse.

"When I was in college, I read a book called, 'Future Shock,'" said Boyer. "It talked about a throwaway society, and eventually people became things, and they were disposable, too. I want kids to learn there are other uses for things."

Kids participated in other environmentally-conscious activities throughout the day, including a scavenger hunt, face painting and a movie about Planet Earth.

Second-grade teacher Shannon Kreidler, of Pikes Creek, said a committee of teachers found the idea on the Internet as a way to update the celebration.

Kreidler, who adorned her-



Karen Raspen, a parent at Ross Elementary School, wrapped herself in plastic and paper to walk the runway during a Trashion Show at the school.



Ellen Boyer, grandmother and former Dallas Middle School teacher, created her own trash outfit for the first Ross Elementary School Trashion Show.

self in multi-colored bubble wrap for the occasion, said the event creates a visual reminder for kids to learn about reducing waste.

Teachers, parents and family members created costumes to model at the fashion show, which featured a green-themed runway, strobe lights, a DJ and Ross Elementary student Jacob Prest as master of ceremonies.

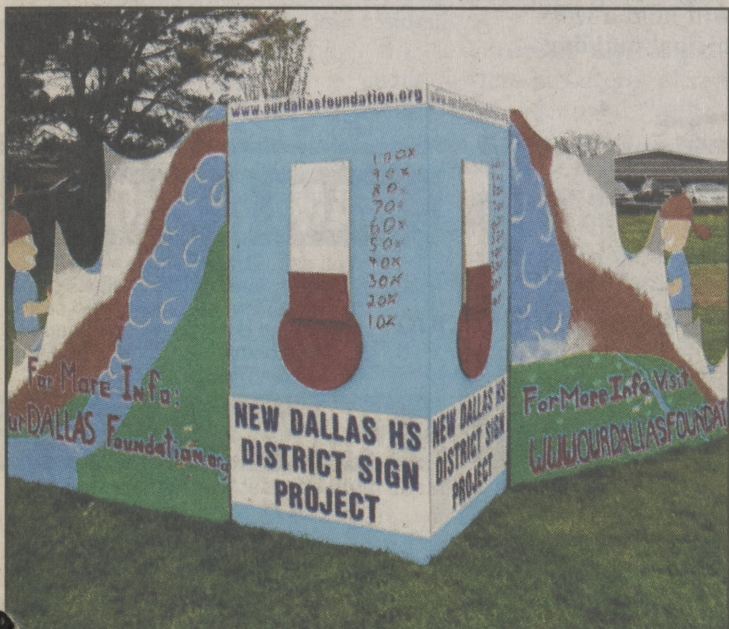
It was one of those times that young children were encouraged to scream their lungs out — teachers and parents paraded down the catwalk as youngsters hooted and hollered while extending their tiny hands for a high-five from the strutting models.

"This is fantastic," teacher assistant Megan Nice, of Sweet Valley, said after she sashayed down the runway wearing an outfit made of duct tape and coffee filters. "The kids are just so excit-

ed." Nikki Kowalski, of Sweet Valley, dreamed up her Trashion Show debut the night before the event. She outfitted herself in a black garbage bag, but cinched her waist with a broken rainbow-colored Slinky.

Kowalski even made a fascinator the royals of England would envy — the show-stopping factor was a cardboard paper towel roll protruding above her head.

"It gets kids thinking about recycling," said Kowalski, whose two grandchildren, Faith and Patrick DePiero, attend Ross Elementary.



BILL TARUTIS / FOR THE DALLAS POST

The Dallas Foundation placed this sign in front of Dallas Elementary School to display its progress in raising funds for a new Dallas High School digital sign to be placed along state route 309.

