

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cost-cutting measures not enough to hold tax line

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

Several cost-cutting strategies couldn't keep the Dallas School Board from raising taxes in the coming school year, as reported by the district business manager at a work session Monday.

Business Manager Grant Palfrey presented the board with an outlook of the proposed final budget for the 2012-13 school year, which includes a 2.1 percent

tax increase along with about \$1.3 million in cuts throughout the district.

The average taxpayer currently pays about \$1,789.88 annually, and Palfrey said the 2.1 percent increase will cost taxpayers an additional \$37.59 per year.

The board will not raise taxes about the Act 1 index, which is based on the statewide weekly wage index and changes annually. Palfrey said the board could have applied for special exceptions to raise taxes above the 2.1

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percent increase, but opted against the measure.

"It was a goal here that, after the building project, we would take the pedal off and stay within that index," said Palfrey.

He said the board had slowly raised taxes over the last eight years to pay for the new high

school building, which opened last year. Last year, the board voted to increase taxes by 5 percent – the highest percentage taxpayers saw during that fundraising period.

The \$32.9 million budget was kept balanced through a number of different measures, including

not replacing the following five retiring teachers: Dallas Elementary kindergarten teacher Luci Callahan, high and middle school language arts and French teacher Candyce Fike, high and elementary school music teacher Todd Hunter, middle school librarian Louise Roberts and Dallas Elementary gifted teacher Linda Doughton.

Middle School Principal Thomas Duffy said various teachers will work together to perform the librarian duties, and high school

Principal Jeffrey Shaffer said two teachers will manage all music programs throughout the district, including the high school.

Not filling those positions will save the district about \$611,000, said Superintendent Frank Galicki. He also announced other various cuts, including health care program savings of about \$250,000, cuts to summer maintenance programs to save about \$56,000, a total of \$80,000 saved

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KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

Residents seek answers on gas

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

The board of supervisors addressed residents' questions about a proposed natural gas compressor station to be built in a neighboring municipality at a meeting Wednesday.

Maureen Matiska, a Dallas School Board member, asked the board whether it requested a hearing as instructed by state Department of Environmental Protection concerning the proposed compressor station to be located in West Wyoming Bor-

Matiska, of Firecut Road, read in a newspaper that the only access to the site would be by using Firecut Road. The proposed compressor station will be built by UGI Energy Services.

She said she knows how public pressure can have an effect on outcomes, as she said the Dallas School Board changed plans for the formerly proposed compressor station in Dallas Township.

Chairman James Reino Jr. said the plans have not yet been formally submitted to the township and, therefore, the supervisors cannot make comments on that are still pending.

The township has an ordinance it passed in 2010 that features strict guidelines for natural gas development in the township, including road usage. Reino said Act 13, which recently changed the state Oil and Gas Act, did not have any effect on the township's ordinance.

Changes to the township home rule charter could be placed on the ballot in Novem-

ber, supervisors said.

Reino said the supervisors discussed changing one section governing how administrative codes are modified to make the process less time-consuming.

The other changes are to make the document in compliance with state law.

Currently, the charter states administrative codes can be changed only by creating an ordinance.

Reino said there are strict rules in passing an ordinance relating to public advertisement and hearings.

He said the board is considering allowing administrative code changes to be made via a resolution.

The other aspects of the charter that will be considered for change include the effective date of ordinances and bidding requirements.

Resident Chris Mathers, wife of Supervisor Gary Mathers, addressed the board about changing the zoning ordinance to house chickens in a residential district.

Mathers, of Grove Street, said a nationwide movement and economic difficulty has led her to pursue raising chickens for their eggs.

Supervisor Shirley Moyer said there is a lot to consider when changing the zoning ordinance, especially when it comes to enforcement of the rules.

Township Manager Kathleen Sebastian has received two other requests to raise chickens in residential districts.

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Miliauskas inducted into PA Hall of Fame

John Miliauskas, of Dallas, was inducted into the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Hall of Fame at the PMEIA Annual In-Service Conference Awards Luncheon held April 20 at the Lancaster Convention Center in Lancaster.

One of Miliauskas' former students, Mary Ann Lugiano, nominated him for the PMEIA Hall of Fame award.

During his 35-year tenure at Lake-Lehman High School, Miliauskas repeatedly produced award winners in parade, concert, field show and indoor guard in competition after competition up and down the east coast.

Among the numerous awards, honors and recognition earned by the Lake-Lehman High School Band included being named the official Honor Band to Miss America in Atlantic City in 1985.

International awards included taking first place in Miss USA Parade, Niagara Falls, York, 1975; first place in Blossom Festival Parade, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, 1975; and first place in Miss Niagara Pageant Parade in Montreal, Canada, 1977.



Former Lake-Lehman High School Band Director John Miliauskas, of Dallas, was inducted into the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Hall of Fame.

For 28 years, the award-winning Lake Lehman High School Band took top honors in all categories at the Sherburne Pageant of Bands, New York and Miliauskas was often named Outstanding Director.

Other respectable awards came from taking first-place honors at the Six Flags Festival of Music Parade, Atlanta, Georgia, 1979; and being named Grand National Champions in the same parade in 1985, earning three superior ratings in concert, field and parade band.



Learning business skills at a young age, Lauren Finlay and her friends work a lemonade stand at the Dallas Shopping Center.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

YOUNGEST OF ENTREPRENEURS

By SARAH HITE
shite@mydallaspost.com

Cameron and Mackenzie Fleeger, of Dallas, had reservations about going into business together, but they put their differences aside to participate in the first-ever local Lemonade Day at the Dallas Shopping Center on May 5.

The brother and sister duo decided to sell unique lemonade choices for patrons – pink and strawberry styles – at their custom-built stand.

Lemonade Day is a nationwide educational initiative created by the Texas-based Prepared 4 Life in 2007. This is the first year for NEPA Lemonade Day, which was sponsored by several local businesses.

Children create a business plan and can choose to save, donate or spend the money they earn during the daylong sale.

Jeremy Fleeger, Cameron and Mackenzie's father, appreciates the opportunity for his children to learn about business and money management at a young age – something he wish he had when growing up.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Lemonade Day, visit nepa.lemonade-day.org.

"It's nice," he said. "They did everything themselves – it was all their idea."

Ten-year-old Mackenzie Fleeger said her grandfather, a contractor, helped build the stand, and she and her brother made the lemonade.

"It's 75 cents a glass," she said. "We didn't want it to be too high but we didn't want it to be too low, either."

A short walk from the Fleegers' stand, Lauren Finlay and friends worked hard to keep their own lemonade enterprise busy.

The 7-year-old entrepreneur from Dallas was aided by her father's experience in the lemonade business.

Rob Finlay, owner of the Dallas and Country Club shopping centers and a Lemonade Day sponsor, said he started in the business world selling lemonade on the Irem Temple Golf Course when he was a kid.

"I was taught how to sell and organize," he said. "The biggest



Lauren, second from right, and Ryan Finlay, far right, get help with their lemonade stand from friends Olivia Stevens, far left, and Maya Rosenthal.

thing was when someone told me they didn't like my lemonade. It was a good learning experience."

Lauren Finlay and her friends decided to donate all their proceeds to the Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge in Franklin Township.

"We went there and saw all the poor animals that were hurt," said 6-year-old Olivia Stevens, of

Dallas. "We wanted to help the animals."

Rob Finlay estimates the girls and friends set aside an entire day to make the lemonade, for which they squeezed about 125 lemons.

"This is about the entrepreneurial spirit," he said. "Most of the tenants (in the Dallas Shopping Center) probably started out this way."

New books added to shelves at BMT library

The following books have been added to the shelves of the Back Mountain Memorial Library, 96 Huntsville Road, Dallas, for the month of April:

EXPRESS
"Unnatural Acts" by Stuart Woods, "The Witness" by Nora Roberts, "What Doesn't Kill You" by Iris Johansen, "Come Home" by Lisa Scottoline, "The Innocent" by David Baldacci, "The Wind through the Keyhole" by Stephen King, "Breaking News" by Fern Michaels

FICTION
"Unnatural Acts" by Stuart Woods, "The Witness" by Nora

Roberts, "What Doesn't Kill You" by Iris Johansen, "Come Home" by Lisa Scottoline, "Fifty Shades of Grey" by E.L. James, "The Heart's Frontier" by Lori Copeland, "The Innocent" by David Baldacci, "The Wind through the Keyhole" by Stephen King, "Breaking News" by Fern Michaels, "Crystal Gardens" by Amanda Quick, "The Fiddler" by Beverly Lewis

NONFICTION
"A Woman's Guide to Muscle and Strength" by Irene Lewis-McCormick, "Turing's Cathedral" by George Dyson, "Off the Beaten Path" by Ruth

J. Colvin, "Babylon" by Paul Kriwaczek, "Beautiful Bride from Every Angle"

SCIENCE FICTION
"Rage of the Dragon" by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman

REFERENCE
"The Pennsylvania Manual 2011", "Current Biography 2011"

LARGE PRINT FICTION
"Taken" by Robert Crais, "The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection" by Alexander McCall Smith, "The Rope" by Nevada Barr, "Another Piece of My Heart" by Jane

Green

BOOKS ON CD

"The Lost Years" by Mary Higgins Clark, "Carry the One" by Carol Anshaw, "Poison Flower" by Thomas Perry, "Chasing Midnight" by Randy Wayne White

YOUNG ADULT
"The Obsidian Blade" by Pete Hautman, "The Final Four: A Novel" by Paul Volponi

SPECIAL DONATIONS
"Marley and the Kittens" by John Grogan presented by Little Meadows Day Care 2012, "All Kinds of Kisses" by Linda Cress Dowdy, presented by Little Meadows Day Care 2012