

DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Board members discuss advertising policy change

By SARAH HITE  
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The Dallas School Board discussed whether it would change its advertising policy during a meeting Monday.

Chad Lojewski, a member of the Dallas Educational Foundation, told the board about the group's first fundraising project, which is to replace the school sign on State Route 309 with a digital sign.

The project, estimated to cost about \$40,000, will include space for school announcements as well as advertising from local businesses. Lojewski said the advertising would be necessary to create a source of

revenue, which will allow the foundation to fund future endeavors.

The foundation is a separate, nonprofit arm of the district which raises funds for scholarships, improved facilities as well as extracurricular or athletic teams' needs.

Lojewski said the current sign does not allow multiple messages to be displayed and requires manual labor to change the message. The computerized, digital sign could be changed via a laptop or other computing device and could display 12 messages in a minute.

Lojewski said he and foundation board members spoke with the property owners of the land where the current sign is locat-

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ed at the intersection of Hildebrandt Road and State Route 309 and they will not allow a sign with advertising to be placed on their property.

The district currently does not allow advertising on campus. Board member Karen Kyle thought there may be issues with other groups wanting to advertise elsewhere on campus that could point to the sign as

an example.

Board vice president Bruce Goeringer disagreed with the notion of advertising local businesses on campus and said the sign should be solely for school announcements.

Board president Catherine Wega felt the board should be able to disapprove or discourage advertisers of businesses that would be inappropriate for

school students to be exposed to, but wondered if the district could legally do so.

Lojewski also said there would be costs to maintain the sign, but they would be significantly lower than the initial installation fee.

The idea is to place the sign near the entrance to Dallas Elementary and the high school across from the new softball field where a sign has been placed to track the fundraising progress of the foundation.

Superintendent Frank Galicki said that area is equipped to handle the electrical wiring required for the sign.

"This way it would be on Dallas school property, and we would never have fears or

doubts about whether it would be sold," said Galicki.

Goeringer felt the State Route 309 location would be the preferable spot, and wanted Lojewski to consider a sign without advertising in order to keep it there.

Lojewski said there would be no revenue stream coming into the foundation if there is no advertising on the sign, making it difficult for future projects to be funded.

Goeringer said he felt the electronic sign would be "splashy" and a distraction to drivers.

Galicki said the board will think about the idea before dis-

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DALLAS TOWNSHIP

# Should township kick in to DARE?

By SARAH HITE  
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Supervisors continued discussion about whether to contribute toward the Kingston Township-run D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program at a work session Tuesday.

Kingston Township is asking Dallas Township to donate \$2,500 towards the program. The program cost is divided between Kingston, Dallas and Franklin townships, Dallas Borough and the Dallas School District.

Supervisor Liz Martin said last year was the first year Kingston Township asked for funding from other municipalities and the school district. She said prior to that the program was funded through grants that are no longer available.

Last month, Police Chief Robert Jolley said he didn't agree with the township's required contribution because the Dallas Township Police Department does not require other municipalities to contribute to the K-9 unit program that benefits other communities.

He said the K-9 unit, which in-

"We had a dog die, and I didn't go to Kingston Township looking for money. Now Kingston Township (is) here looking for money."

Robert Jolley  
Dallas Township Police Chief

cludes training and maintenance of a police dog used to detect drugs and other illicit substances on a person, cost tens of thousands of dollars and is taken to the school and other departments regularly.

Jolley said it's a similar situation, but the Dallas Township department isn't asking for money to fund its K-9 unit.

"Kingston Township selected apples, I selected oranges," said Jolley. "...We had a dog die, and I didn't go to Kingston Township looking for money. Now Kingston Township (is) here looking for money. Maybe the first place the township of Kingston should have looked is in their budget.

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Members of Boy Scout Troop 281, of Dallas, who recently hiked the 59.2 mile Loyalsock Trail are, from left, first row, Jonathan Adams, Kyle Zern, Bradley Adams, Matthew Reynolds, Brian Butler, David Schnable, Zackary Dixon. Second row, Assistant Scout Master Bill Reynolds, Josh Frankevich, David Oley, Eric Davies, Hunter Hughes, Jake Arnold, John Blatt, Assistant Scout Master Richard Oley, Brian Drouse, Assistant Scout Master Todd Adams and Assistant Scout Master Bill Arnold.

# Boys Scouts enjoy high adventure hike

Thirty six members of Boy Scout Troop 281, Dallas, undertook a high adventure hike in late June.

Eighteen members of the

troop completed the rugged wilderness footpath of the 59.2 mile Loyalsock Trail. They hiked for seven days and six nights, earning them

the title "Thru Hiker."

This trail is considered to be one of the most difficult trails to Thru Hike in the United States.

The boys who finished the hike will be eligible to earn the 50-mile award after completing 10 hours of service on a trail.

KINGSTON TOWNSHIP

# Without delivery of earned income tax dollars, twp. will be in financial straits

By SARAH HITE  
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Kingston Township will be in financial trouble if earned income tax dollars aren't delivered to the township general fund soon, supervisors said at a meeting Wednesday.

Chairman James Reino Jr. said the township is more than \$600,000 short of this year's budget due to the late-coming dollars. After this month's bills are paid, only \$143,000 remains in the general fund.

"This affects us most because our township depends mostly on EIT (earned income tax) collections as a main source of income," said Reino.

The board voted to seek proposals for a tax anticipation note, which is akin to a loan from a financial lending institution that would cover the budget shortfall.

The supervisors would only take out such a loan if the township was in dire financial straits, and it would need to pay back that dollar amount of the loan plus interest, which would fall on the backs of taxpayers.

Reino said if this does happen, the board plans to ask Don Wilkinson/CENTAX to cover the interest costs due to its inability to provide the income tax in the first place.

"This is outrageous that they're not complying with the requirements," said Supervisor Jeffrey Box of the company.

In other news, the board...

• Appointed the following two residents to township boards: Thomas Festa, of Shavertown, to the planning commission; and Kim Helson, of Shavertown, to

the recreation board.

There are still several vacancies on the township recreation board. Residents can send a letter of interest to the municipal building at 180 E. Center St., Shavertown, PA 18708 or by e-mailing info@kingstontownship.com.

• Approved the next three payments for the East Center Street Bridge replacement project in the amount of \$46,548.38. Those cost of the project is being split, with the state Department of Transportation paying 80 percent and Kingston Township paying 20 percent. Kingston Township's portion of that payment is \$9,309.67.

• Approved the installation of five fire hydrants on Perrin Avenue, West Mount Airy Road and Roushey Street as part of the pro-

"This is outrageous that they're not complying with the requirements."

Jeffrey Box  
KT supervisor

posed water main replacement project by United Water Pennsylvania. The annual cost to maintain these hydrants is about \$950.

• Approved the creation of an un-paid volunteer position of assistant emergency management coordinator to perform the duties of emergency management coordinator in his or her absence.

• Approved the submission of a local needs questionnaire for fiscal year 2013 Luzerne County

Community Development Program for funding of a pipe project in the vicinity of Railroad, Division and North Lehigh streets.

• Approved the installation of two "Watch Children" signs on Bunker Hill Road at a cost of approximately \$312 as per the request of resident Denise Connors.

• The next Kingston Township Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 12 in the municipal building.

JACKSON TOWNSHIP

# Supers vote to sell off excess compost

By SARAH HITE  
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The board of supervisors voted Monday to allow the township solicitor to draft an agreement that would allow for the sale of excess compost.

Solicitor Jeffrey Malak said the supervisors would need to draft an agreement and have the action approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection before moving forward with the sale.

Resident Mary Dockeraay had many questions about the venture and opposed the measure because she felt it would take business away from local farmers.

Supervisor Al Fox said the compost will still be free for residents. The program began two years ago when the township joined the West Side Compost Commission, which enabled the township to purchase a grinder through a state grant.

He said compost is made and available for residents to pick up Monday through Saturday from dawn until dusk. Fox said Dockeraay could express her feelings, but the supervisors have chosen this measure to benefit residents,

and she is free not to participate.

He said the funds from the commercial purchases would offset the costs of running the grinder.

The board also approved an increase in municipal quarterly contributions from 5 to 7 percent to the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System.

Upon questioning from Dockeraay, Malak said the statewide retirement system suggested the increase due to poorly-performing investments. Fox believes it was the first time a raise in contributions was suggested in 10 years.

Supervisors also approved an update to the police policy duty manual as prepared by the police chief. Supervisor John Wilkes Jr. said the update was suggested by the township's insurance carrier, which performs an audit annually.

Fox said the manual includes "everything you could think of" that defines police procedures and how to perform them. He said many of the policies are statewide.

The next Jackson Township Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Sept. 3 in the municipal building.

# Agency's name change is celebrated

County MH/MR now known as Mental Health and Developmental Services.

The Luzerne County Council and Wyoming County Commissioners officially proclaimed the name change of the Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program to Luzerne-Wyoming Counties Mental Health and Developmental Services at a ceremony held July 25 at the Luzerne County Courthouse.

Well over 200 families, self-advocates, human service staff and state and county officials came together to witness the unveiling of the new name.

The new term "Developmental Services" represents a shift in how individuals with special needs are referred.

Following 2010's federal legislation mandating the removal of the term "Mental Retardation" from all federal statutes, Pennsylvania's Governor Corbett signed HB 458, removing

the words "Mental Retardation" from the MH/MR Act of 1966.

These historic legislative actions are now being carried forward on a local level through the bi-county jointer's new name.

Moving away from the negative connotations associated with the outdated language will significantly foster the respect and dignity individuals with special needs truly deserve.