

DALLAS SD Mentor program adopted

By JON O'CONNELL
Times Leader Correspondent

School Board President Catherine Wega called it a great part of the school district's curriculum, referring to a grade-encompassing career awareness program to begin in October, school officials say.

The Dallas School Board on Sept. 17 adopted the Pennsylvania Department of Education's career mentoring program as part of the district's curriculum. Career mentoring is a part of the recommended K-12 career awareness from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The program is based on area business professionals volunteering as mentors to work with students, giving them early exposure to what they might find upon entering the work force.

The program is to be implemented into the district's curriculum in three phases, with the first two conducted in-house. Volunteers are to speak during assemblies and career fairs will allow students to explore the area's business opportunities on their own.

At voting time, board member Fred Parry asked about ground checks as the program's phase three has students leaving the campus for job shadowing.

He expressed concern and voted against the program because the district does not have a current policy addressing this career awareness program's volunteers, nothing requiring them to undergo criminal background checks before interacting with students.

He said he was most concerned with the job-shadowing element.

After discussion with solicitor Ben Jones, the board concluded that adopting the new program to the curriculum is the first step.

Board member Maureen Matiska said school policy and curriculum are two separate items and do not need to be considered in the same vote.



Matthew Cheskiewicz, a student at Dallas Elementary School, is served an ice cream cone by a parent PTO member.



Dallas Elementary School PTO members Amy Schappert, left, and Lisa Langan serve ice cream cones to students. The group annually treats the students during their first week of school.

DES students all scream for ICE CREAM

The Dallas Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization continued its annual tradition by hosting an ice cream party at the school during the first week of classes.



Lauren Hurst smacks her lips clean after an ice cream treat served by the Dallas Elementary School PTO. The group traditionally serves ice cream to the entire student body during the first week of classes.

CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

LAKE-LEHMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board approves drivers, staffs activities

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
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Lake-Lehman School Board settled into the new academic year by approving drivers and ensuring extra-curricular activities are sufficiently staffed.

The board approved 38 bus and van drivers, as well as 16 substitute drivers and six van contractors for the 2012-2013 school year. Andrew Salko, board treasurer, said more van contractors should be eliminated for next year.

It was noted that financial

reports for the district are due on Oct. 31 and that a complete update will be available in the next 30 days. At this time, the district is unsure of its share of earned income taxes, one of the final statistics needed to complete the reports.

The board approved Capital Reserve disbursements in the amount of \$144,624.05 unanimously.

Members voted 7-2 on the appointment of Brian Gorski as head baseball coach with a stipend of \$4,254.81 for the upcoming season. They also

approved Nancy Edkins as head swim coach with a stipend of \$3,620.36 and Douglas Piazza as assistant band director with a stipend of \$2,145.15.

The board authorized the human resources department

to advertise for a 4.5 hour custodian, approved the appointment of a new Junior-Senior High School food service worker and appointed Molly Company, of Shavertown, as a teacher associate to begin at Lehman-Jackson Elementary.

The board also rescinded the appointment of Kimberly Ayers as a personal care assistant for the 2012-2013 year.

The following elementary department heads were approved: Carrie McDonald in Language Arts, Donna Richards in Science, Richard Cronin in Math and Linda Van Orden in Social Studies with a stipend of \$1,523.02 each.

The board moved to grant tenure and issue professional employee contracts to Kim-

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tured an appearance by the Penn State Nittany Lion, fire truck rides by the Dallas Fire Department, an open mic competition with local performers of all ages and a petting zoo presented by Blue Chip Farms. Children flocked to see white rabbits, ducks, chickens and Wilbur the 8-month-old pot-belly pig that was available for adoption.

The elected winner of the Kiss the Pig fundraiser was Dallas Middle School Principal Dr. Tom Duffy, who puckered up to Wilbur in the afternoon.

The Dallas School District was well represented as seniors Madeline Mulhern and Courtney Sickel volunteered at a booth to gather organ and tissue donation sign-ups and the Dallas High School varsity cheerleaders performed on the main stage.

Families gathered their children around the Whistle Pig Pumpkin Patch stand for pumpkin decorating fun. Chase Susko, of Dallas, sat with his wife and young daughter while they decorated a pumpkin. "It seems like there's more people this year,"



Luzerne County Judge Jennifer Rogers does the Chicken Dance on stage at the Dallas Harvest Festival.



Jovanni Piccolotti, 6, of Dallas, left, assists Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus clowns Cherie, right, and Dave with their juggling act at the Dallas Harvest Festival.

BILL TARUTIS PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

he said. With vendors on a waiting list for next year's celebration, the committee is pleased with this year's attendance and is already working on improving the event for next year.

RIGHT PHOTO: Abby Mitchell, 6, of Noxen, left, pets an albino bunny as Blue Chip Farms Animal Refuge volunteer Maci Iddings, of Tunkhannock holds him.



FAR RIGHT PHOTO: Two-year-old Christopher Harding, of Shavertown, applies a sticker to his pumpkin at the Dallas Harvest Festival.