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DALLAS SCHOOLS

Board honors veterans

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
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Dr. Richard Coslett opened the Nov. 12 Dallas School Board meeting with a brief speech honoring veterans, including a video montage, a song entitled "Chicken Fried" by Zac Brown Band and a moment of silence for those lost.

Following the presentation, Scott Vencil of Crabtree, Rohrbaugh & Associates Architects presented the board with the initial assessment on the structural and engineering aspects of Dallas schools. In his proposal, he included a projection of future student populations up to the year 2020, indicating that CRA has found that, historically, Dallas School District has exceeded population projections of the Department of Education by as much as 6% a year.

Vencil presented the analysis, possible problem areas and possible solutions, including the idea of renovating or demolishing the current modular constructions from 1972 at the Dallas Elementary School, providing rough sketches of what the new construction would look like should the district choose to demolish the existing building.

Several members of the audience spoke out when Vencil asked if there were any questions, expressing concerns that the proposal sounded expensive and not enough specific information has been provided to the public. Board members indicated they had just received the booklet themselves and would review the information thoroughly and share it with the public in detail at the December meeting.

Dallas High School Principal Jeffrey Shaffer then presented new scheduling arrangements he hopes will be in place by January. The schedule will change classes from 72 minutes to 44-minute blocks and the school day from five periods to eight. The Parent Advisory Committee was informed of the changes last week and the information will now be placed online for parent review.

Shaffer explained that this scheduling structure, combined with the new cyber program through Seneca Valley, will allow students to take more classes, strengthen their core learning and allow for hybrid schedules. Students can attend the campus for part of the day and take other classes online, such as additional language classes, that may not be offered at the school.

Denise DeLuca asked if children would be permitted to take extra classes or additional credits online after attending a full school day. Board member Karen Kyle said that scenario might be possible for advanced students.

The board took a 15-minute intermission when President Catherine Wega suddenly became ill. Wega did not rejoin the meeting. According to Superintendent Frank Galicki, Wega experienced issues with low blood sugar, but was feeling better the next day.

The board heard from John Delamater on the status of the school's lacrosse teams. Delamater asked the board to help with fields and transportation for the upcoming season. He told the

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CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK PHOTOS/ FOR THE DALLAS POST

David Harris visits his daughter Jennifer's kindergarten class at Ross Elementary School as part of a special Dads in School program. Harris recently returned home from military duty.

Come to my school, Daddy

By MEGAN SCHNEIDER
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One area school is helping to encourage fathers to be active participants in their children's education.

Ross Elementary School in Sweet Valley hosted a Dad's Day on Nov. 6, a day for fathers to volunteer part of their day to participate in fun activities with their children's class.

Fifty-three fathers took part in the day, some of them multiple times for multiple children.

Nick Raczkowski, father to Kalee, Alyssa and Lilian, was in an event for each of his daughters. He played Turkey Tag in the gym with Kaylee's second-grade class. The children laughed and pointed as Raczkowski slid under leg bridges

"I think it's awesome to be able to spend time with the kids. It's a different dynamic. You get to see your kids hanging out with their friends. It's great."

Nick Raczkowski
Father of three elementary students

and crawled on his hands and knees to unfreeze teammates Tim Vogan, of Hunlock Creek, and Frank Prest, of Sweet Valley, other fathers who volunteered that day.

"I think it's awesome to be able to spend time with the kids," Raczkowski said. "It's a different dynamic. You get to see your kids hanging out with



Rob Olson went to his son Jared's kindergarten class at Ross Elementary School as part of a special Dads in School program.

their friends. It's great."

David Harris and Rob Olson helped children make colored paper acorns in Janna Kabosky's kindergarten class. For Harris, a military man on leave from Dyess Air Force Base in Texas,

the day was a welcomed opportunity to spend time with his

daughter, Jennifer.

Ross Elementary Principal Donald James said, "The goal is to get the fathers here and get them comfortable so they come back and volunteer more."

This is the second time the school has held this event and, according to James, it seems to

help as more fathers are getting involved and attending events and PTO meetings.

Dads' Day was organized by teachers Jeremy Williams, Rebecca Keefe, Janna Kabosky, Ray Podskoch and Stacey Pelle-

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Sanctuary gets new walking paths

The proposed Woodland Springs Wildlife Sanctuary in Dallas Borough took a step forward on Saturday, Oct. 20 when volunteer students from Misericordia University helped create treated walking paths through the property.

Kathryn Heffner, Jenna Strobhar, Joshua Papp, Paul McClintock, Ryan Evans, Caithlin Day and Conor Brennan from the Misericordia Outreach Program

tromped through the grounds of the almost 3-acre Pineview Road property, preparing the grounds for public visitors.

Landowner Andrew Duda hopes to run several fundraisers over the winter months to gain support of local businesses.

Duda is planning to install a five or six car parking area near the property entrance on Maplewood Avenue and is hoping to install a gazebo and benches along the paths for visitors. He is seeking volunteers to help with the long-term maintenance of the property.

Duda hopes to have the sanctuary open to the public in the early spring.

- Megan Schneider

BORTON FAMILY HOLDS PUMPKIN PARTY



The Borton family of Dallas recently held its annual pumpkin party recently. Shown with their creations are, from left, first row, Ty Federici, Matt Dolan, Zach Holthaus, Sean Dolan, Emma Berger, Alison Francis, Megan Borton, Sydney Strickland, Julia Kocher, Andrew Francis. Second row, Ryan Borton, Jacob Chesonis, Madison Federici, Brody Strickland, Hollie Holthaus, Nick Kocher and Adam Borton.



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