

SUSQUEHANNA TIMES

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Ralph M. Snyder
R. D. 2 Box 431
Mount Joy, PA 17552

FIFTEEN CENTS

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Maytown school cuts 2 teachers from staff; parents told building won't close in 76-77

Two of the twelve teaching positions at Maytown School will be eliminated next fall, and part of the building may be closed down, school officials told parents at a meeting last week.

The officials assured parents that Maytown School will not be shut down in 1976 or 1977. The possibility of closing the school has been discussed by the school board, but was rejected for immediate future.

The revelations were made at a meeting of the Maytown Parents and Teachers in Partnership. School Board member Dale Arnold, Maytown principal James Lawrence, and school superintendent Ragnar Hallgren attended the meeting to explain the situation to parents and answer questions.

The reason for the planned cutbacks is an austerity budget which has been tentatively approved by the Donegal School Board. The board, faced with rising costs and a loss of state money, would have had to pass a 20 mill tax increase to keep the present number of teachers on the payroll. The board plans a tax increase of only 7 mills.

A total of 11½ jobs were eliminated in the new budget, including 4½ teaching positions. Maytown School lost 2 of those positions. Enrollment at Maytown School has been dropping faster than enrollment at other elementary schools in the district, so Maytown was chosen to absorb the biggest loss of teachers.

Both teachers who will lose their jobs were hired earlier this year as "substitutes."

No final decision has been made on the possibility of closing part of the Maytown School building

next fall. The amount of money available for heating and maintaining school buildings will not be known until negotiations with teachers' and custodians' unions are completed this summer.

If the teachers and custodians win a large salary increase, less money will be available for maintenance, according to an informed source. The school board's austerity budget, which will be passed before negotiations begin, is roughly based on current salaries.

Parent group leaders fear school closing; urge letter campaign

John L. Biesecker and Harold L. Wilson, Co-chairmen of the Maytown Parents and Teachers in Partnership, are urging parents to write letters to individual school board members, asking them not to shut down Maytown Elementary School.

School officials assured parents that the school will not be closed in the next two years, but said that whether the school remains open indefinitely will depend on future developments.

Mr. Biesecker feels that the school board wants to test how the people of Maytown feel about the possibility of losing their school. He urges everyone concerned to write letters to the school board members.

If Maytown School is closed, students would probably be bused to Riverview Elementary School in Marietta, where some classrooms are now empty. Combining the two schools would save money.



Grandview students released hundreds of red, white and blue balloons last week in what may have been the first really big celebration of the Memorial Day

weekend. Each balloon had a card with one student's name and address attached to the string. See story on back page.



Young spectator marches along with Donegal High School Band during the Marietta Memorial Day parade.



Memorial Day

Memorial Day was celebrated with parades, military ceremonies, and church services in Mount Joy, Maytown and Marietta last weekend.

There were fire carnivals and flea markets.

Mount Joy received the borough's first official flag at the Memorial Day service in Memorial Park.

Pictures and stories about most of these events can be found inside this newspaper.

New office for District Justice

District Justice Raymond B. Knorr's office is now open in a new location at 775 Donegal Springs Road, Mount Joy, at the corner of South Market Avenue.