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## Donegal School Board discusses computers, discipline, potentially expensive track improvements

The Donegal School Board met last Thursday and heard a talk about computers, received a visit from two exchange students and their temporary local families, heard from the discipline committee, and discussed metric conversion of the Donegal High track.

### Computer

John Dav and Bob Pekarek, two students at DHS, brought in a TRS80 computer made by Radio Shack, a model which sells for about \$600. They ran various programs for the Board, including the solution of quadratic equations and a bouncing "ball" of light. They told the Board that a larger version of the same machine (16K bits of memory vs. 4K) would be a good investment. They also advised buying a disc drive and printer output device for each machine bought.

Mr. Arnold asked if the computers, which would cost between \$7000 and \$10,000, were intended to be used as calculators or as programming teaching aides. The students said they would be used as teaching aides. Any use as calculators would be incidental.

Dr. Eshleman asked what proportion of students in the school have used the present computer (a remote hookup to the E-town College computer). After some confusion about the question, he was told that about 75% of the students in the classes which use the computer terminal have used the computer.

Mr. Drenner said that now might be the time to buy computers. He said the cost is not going down as quickly as it was a couple of years ago. (The Board has been reluctant to buy one in the past because of the steeply dropping prices for the machines.) He also said that a Title IV ESEA grant might pay for the computers or part of them.

Computers are used by the math, science, and business departments.

### Discipline Committee report

Jere Duke, head of the Discipline Committee, presented the group's final recommendations, which may be adopted at a later board meeting.

Duke said that the committee had tried to design a "motivational" discipline system and avoid "vindictive" punishments.

The code is not very specific, Duke said, because behavior code details must vary from school to school. As an example, he said that a dress code for the high school which might prohibit shorts would be inappropriate in the elementary schools.

The old code was not that different from his

group's, according to Mr. Duke, who said, "The old code was good, but it wasn't publicized enough."

Basically, the new code defines four levels of offense and specifies for each a list of examples, procedures, and discipline options.

The first level misbehavior is that which disrupts classes: yelling, dress infractions, lying, tardiness. Discipline consists of reprimands, counseling, demerits, detention, extra homework, etc. This sort of thing is usually dealt with by an individual teacher. Repeated misbehavior will be recorded and referred to a counselor.

Level two consists of often-repeated or more serious actions of the level one type: using forged excuse notes, truancy, failure to report for detention. Discipline is handled by an administrator rather than a teacher. Corrective measures include schedule changes, probation, paddling, suspension from school, transfer to another school, or behavior modification techniques.

Level three offenses verge on criminal behavior in some cases, are criminal in others: smoking (or "possession of smoking materials"), using or possessing fireworks, fighting, stealing, making threats. In these cases an administrator talks with parents and staff about discipline, and may require restitution of damages in some cases. Sanctions include temporary removal from class, homebound instruction, suspension, referral to an agency, and behavior contracts.

Level four offenses would be dealt with by police if they occurred outside school: drugs, assaulting a teacher, weapons, bomb threats, vandalism, arson. In these cases, the administrator confers with the staff, notifies the parents, and calls the police. The student is immediately removed from school. The student gets a "full due process hearing" before the School Board. Punishments might be expulsion, being sent to an alternative school, or other action.

Level one offenses are dealt with within the school: level two offenses are punishable by paddling or referral to an agency; level three always leads to removal from class or school; level four, the only level with provisions for a hearing, results in automatic expulsion and possible police action.

Mr. Duke hopes the code will be acted upon at the next Board meeting.

### Exchange students

Two foreign exchange students—Ilka Hardt from Germany and Lucia Gomez from Columbia—were introduced by DHS teacher Rudy Milovanovic. He also introduced their host families: the John Henry Brubakers and the Lloyd Stoners. (Ilka is staying with the Brubakers, Lucia with the Stoners.)

Both girls talked about their home countries' schools in comparison with DHS in response to the questions of the School Board. The board members listened with great interest to them.

Ilka said that German schools are "a lot harder" than American schools: no one gets away with cutting classes there, she said. German students get fewer studies in "citizenship" (the word was supplied by Mr. Milovanovic when Ilka had trouble expressing herself). Ilka hopes to use her much-improved English to get a good job when she returns home, she said, noting that English is the international language.

Lucia said that she came to America because her mother wouldn't let her go to England to study. At DHS, she said, "It's fun going to school. I never have to study." She said that her school in Columbia had much religious instruction, exactly the opposite of Germany, where there is none at all, according to Ilka.

Both girls told the board that they didn't think Americans should have to learn foreign languages, because they can already get along anywhere in the world with English.

Mr. Brubaker said that the foreign exchange students are good for our local kids to have around: "For the students in our school, it's like a trip to Sweden—but it's cheaper," he said. (Mr. Brubaker last year hosted a Swedish student.)

### Water damage fixed?

A Lancaster man, Ellis Kamich, told the district that he could fix the water stained ceilings at DHS with a special paint. He offered to paint a hallway and 14 rooms for \$4950. The Board decided to have him paint one room to see if it works. They also felt that so much money should not be spent on repairs in one building.

### Tennis lights

The tennis court lights are still sitting idle. The Board didn't want to install coin-operated metering equipment because of the high initial cost. They will ask local organizations to volunteer to pay the \$1.20 per hour cost of electricity to run the lights for the

public.

### Metrified track

The rebuilding of the track to fit the new metric standards was discussed after Jere Duke brought up the matter (it was not on the agenda).

"I can't see spending \$15,000 to cut an angle in the track," referring to a bid that was submitted last year. He suggested telling the PIAA that they just wouldn't do it. However, this would mean that Donegal wouldn't be able to host track meets, he was told.

No decision was reached.

### Mowing

The mowing contract for Grandview, Seiler and Beahm was discussed with Rick Breult, who was at the meeting. Breault has been under contract with the district to mow those places. The renewal of the contract with Breault will be discussed in committee, Mr. Arnold said.

### Snow day

The snow makeup day is scheduled for June 6th.

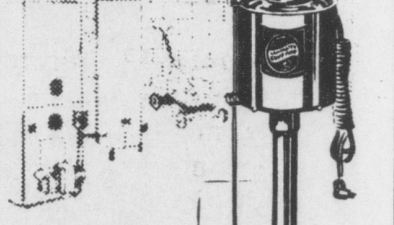
### Resignation

Mrs. Teresa Flanagan, an elementary teacher for four years, resigned.



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