

New dean of students at middle school

Full-day kindergarten now free at DCSC

By Kevin Schnepf
Staff writer

Delphi Community School Corporation Board of Trustees planned earlier this year to offer a limited number of full-day kindergarten spots for a fee. That all changed when the board unanimously approved DCSC Superintendent Ralph Walker's recommendation to offer it free of charge next year.

Walker said anticipated increases in government funding for the program and classroom space availability prompted the board to act on what it viewed as a risky but worthwhile opportunity.

portunity.

He said while most schools don't have space to house full-day kindergarten students, DCSC is in prime position to offer it district-wide due to elementary realignment.

Walker said the state-allocated fund would be divided equally among all students enrolled in the program. That, he said, should at least allow the corporation to break even, if not profit from the venture.

"The parents have spoken," Walker stated, citing responses from 76 parents he surveyed. "Of those 76 parents, 75 said they would enroll their child in full-

day kindergarten if it were free."

Walker said it was important to act quickly in order to provide educational opportunities to students.

"It is so important we get these children started off right. That is their whole future."

Board member Nick Cronk commented he was glad socio-economics did not play into funding. He said even numbers represent equality and he believed that was the right way to approach education.

At least one half-day session will still be offered next year according to Walker. Plans are for students to be

bussed back to Hillcrest or home at the end of each school day.

New dean of students at middle school

The board approved Dan Dawson to be Delphi Middle School Dean of Students.

Resler explained the board made a mistake when it did not refill the assistant principal position when Russ Landis resigned two years ago.

"It was the wrong thing to do," Resler stated. "We need someone in that role to help administrative duties run smoothly."

Walker said resignations from re-

cently-vacated positions the board does not plan to refill, including that of maintenance supervisor, would free up money for the dean's salary.

Dawson will also coach the varsity girls' basketball team.

Elementary school name changes discussed

The board held a brief discussion regarding the names of Hillcrest and Camden elementary schools.

It was decided the board would discuss the name change again at the next regular meeting.

Athletic facilities

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Camden Council sets tax rate; talks about school situation

By Jennifer Archibald
Staff writer

The new tax rate for the town, and the Camden school situation were two subjects brought up at the Camden Town Council meeting on May 8.

Council president Pete Wagoner said the new tax rate was adopted at a special meeting April 23. He announced that the allowable rate for the general fund was \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed valuation, but the council set the rate at \$1.05. Wagoner said the new rate is four cents higher than the current rate. The Cumulative Capital Development and Cumulative Sewer will add .06 cents for a total rate of \$1.11.

Wagoner said a petition is being circulated by concerned citizens, pertaining to the school situation. The petition asks the Delphi Community School Corporation Board of Trustees to rescind its decision to move all Camden Elementary students in grades one through five to Hillcrest Elementary and use the Camden facility as an Early Childhood Center.

He said the petition can be signed in the town office, and called for volunteers to help circulate the petition throughout the entire school district. He said the petition will be out for the next few weeks.

Wagoner said he was speaking for himself and not as a representative of the town.

He stated that the school situation does have an economic impact on the town. He said, as an example, one family had planned to move to Camden and had made an offer on a house, but when they found out about the changes being made to the elementary school, they rescinded their offer to buy.

Also pertaining to the school, Wagoner said the council directed Anne Briggs, town attorney, to send a letter to the DCSC board of trustees in regard to Camden Elementary School property ownership.

Wagoner said Briggs researched the title to the school and found that the only

deed recorded was in 1907, when the town of Camden deeded the property to Jackson Township. He said there is no record of a deed transfer to Delphi Community School Corp. He added that there might have been some kind of provision made in the 1960s, during consolidation, that didn't require a deed.

"We're not claiming that Jackson Township owns the school," Wagoner said. He explained that the town just wants some clarification or documentation concerning ownership of the school.

Wagoner said when the consolidation took place, the Jackson Township Park was used by the school for sporting events and was included in land needed for the school. He added that the only recorded deed for the park shows that it is owned by Jackson Township.

One paragraph in the attorney's letter reads "The Town is very concerned about the future use of the Camden Elementary School properties as well as the violation of the agreement that possession, only, of the Camden property would be given to DCSC on the commitment that DCSC would operate a school for elementary-age children living in the townships served by the Camden School."

The town asked the DCSC board president Robert Resler to provide documentation by May 15.

The council approved a Capital Improvement Plan for 2007. Having such a plan is a requirement in order to receive and spend EDIT funds for town improvements. Another requirement is to pay a per capita amount in order to be a part of the county Economic Development Corporation. Camden clerk-treasurer Pat Casserly said Daryl Smith, executive di-

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Former county health department employee stands trial

Jury gets Lohmiller case late Tuesday

By Debbie Lowe
Staff writer

It has been almost two years since charges were filed against Rebecca Lohmiller, the former county employee who held the position of county health nurse, both part-time and full-time, from November 1999 until Oct. 1, 2004. On Aug. 3, 2005, then county prosecutor Rob Ives charged the defendant with six C-felony counts of forgery and 21 B-misde-

meanor counts of practicing nursing without a license.

A C-felony carries the penalty of between two to eight years and each B-misdemeanor carries a sentence up to six months.

The county has a new pros-

ecutor with Tricia Thompson, but the facts of the case remain the same.

Trial began Monday in Carroll Circuit Court, presided over by Special Judge Linley Pearson. Judge Donald Currie was unable to preside due to a conflict involving his former position as deputy prosecutor for the county.

After the 12-member jury selection in the morning, testimony was heard in the afternoon and again on

Wagoner, who served as moderator, stated the purpose of the meeting was to determine if there were any objectives that citizens could pursue to change the school board's decision on realignment. A feasible plan of action would be determined as the meeting progressed.

Wagoner further explained that this was not a town called meeting and that he and Casserly, both Camden Town Council members, were in attendance as concerned citizens, and not as representatives of the town.

A short calendar of dates leading to the adopted realignment was given: the public first became aware of a change

at the Camden Elementary School open house on Feb. 26; the school board meeting of March 12 was the first time the school board discussed the issue at a public meeting; and realignment was passed at the April 9 board meeting.

The following concerns were expressed by those in attendance: Continued page 5A

Bridge foundation



Canal volunteers have been busy restoring the 1905 Stearns iron bridge obtained from Pulaski County last year. When assembled, the bridge will span the canal behind Dairy Queen in Delphi. This photo shows one end of the bridge foundation that was recently installed deep into the west side bank. The location is off Bicycle Bridge Road, along the Vanscoy Trail. Pictured l-r are Ron Dust and Bill Draper. Recent work on the bridge has included cleaning and painting the 100-plus pieces of wrought iron making up the 78-foot long structure. Photo provided

Petition asks Delphi trustees to rescind realignment decision

A meeting of citizens concerned about the realignment planned for the Delphi Community elementary schools was held on May 1 at the Camden Baptist Church.

Ron Swayze introduced the rest of the panel - Peter Wagoner, Pat Casserly, and Attorneys Cindy Harmon and Anne Briggs.

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Lohmiller

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May 16 for the verdict

Tuesday for much of the day. Witnesses for the state on Monday included health department secretary Mary Jones and current health nurse Brenda Coble. Also called to testify were commissioner Bill Brown, attorney Barry Emerson, Dr. T. Neal Petty, who was Lohmiller's supervisor, auditor Beth Myers, then County

Sheriff's Sgt. Tony Burns and Deputy John Chapman.

Lohmiller took the stand on Tuesday. According to Thompson in her closing arguments, Lohmiller admitted on the stand that she never possessed a nursing license in Indiana. Thompson said the defendant said she told supervisor Petty that she was Continued page 5A

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