

Track results come back good

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Results from testing on Dallas High School's track revealed this it is harder that International Association of Athletic Federations (IAAF) guidelines.

Those standards apply only to facilities hosting international sanctioned meets, said Kevin Montague, Dallas School District's facilities manager.

"We are structurally sound," Montague said and noted that IAAF recommendations state that track surfaces can last eight to 10 years under heavy use conditions. "Our track is not extensively or heavily used."

Montague received the testing results last week from Gary Logsdon, the vice president of sales for Beynon Sports, the compa-

ny that installed the track in 2004.

IAAF recommends surface have "force reduction" between 35 and 50. On that scale, concrete is considered zero and above 50 is too soft.

Logsdon said 17 areas of the track were tested, on the inside lanes, and lanes four, five and eight. The inside lanes tested at an average of 27.17. Lanes four and five averaged 31.18. Lane eight averaged 30.64.

More recent patches tested at 42.33 and 38.

"In summary, the surface at Dallas High School tests harder than the IAAF recommendation of 35," Logsdon wrote in an email to Montague. "However the track at Dallas High School or most any other high school does not meet the IAAF recommendation."

He said the track is in

good condition, given its age. The company does recommend resurfacing every 10 to 12 years.

Logsdon volunteered to test additional facilities in Salem that are made of the same material completed in the last five years for further comparison.

"He's going to give us that data so we can really put it into perspective instead of just guessing," Montague said.

Superintendent Michelle Johnstone said the district's Citizens Oversight Committee will review the information this week. The district's new athletic trainer will be asked for feedback as well.

"We know that's been a concern with injuries to kids," she said.

Athletic Director Tim Larson said Monday he didn't know if coaches had seen the assessment yet.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Caleb Harris started as principal at Whitworth Elementary School this year. He worked at Oakdale Heights Elementary School for the last eight years.

Harris joins Whitworth

Hopes to help make school more relevant for kids

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Caleb Harris and the staff at Whitworth Elementary School have an overarching goal of making school relevant for children.

Harris, who was the principal at Oakdale Heights Elementary School for the last eight school years, took over at Whitworth, a fourth- and fifth-grade school.

"I gave my teachers permission to think outside the box and question why we are doing what we are doing," Harris said Monday. "We want kids to be engaged. We want them to think. We want them to want to come to school and to learn, and not just have the ability to regurgitate information, but to apply the information."

Harris said students at Whitworth are at the stage in their education where they build on the foundational

concepts they have been given in their first four years of school.

"They are still at a stage in life where they are still really excited about learning and figuring out what they are going to do," Harris said.

Whitworth teachers and staff are meeting that challenge by integrating new science and math lesson plans, Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

All teachers attended voluntary training over the summer.

Fourth-grade teachers have committed to teaching at least two of the four PLTW modules.

Fifth-grade teachers will incorporate all four.

PLTW has students working in groups on problems that don't necessarily have one right answer, something Harris sees as one of its strengths.

"It going to create a different approach, I think, to learning," Harris said. "It's

going to force kids to really struggle and not be successful the first time ... which is a great life lesson. How many times in life do we say, 'Well that didn't work out, so what am I going to do next?'"

Those concepts and skills fit well with the science and technology opportunities being developed at LaCreole Middle School and Dallas High School.

Perhaps best of all, the teaching strategy helps answer the age-old student question: "When will I use this in life?"

"Teachers want to make it (school) relevant, and they want kids to understand how this applies in the real world," Harris said.

Harris said he's already seen PLTW activities happening just in the first week of class.

"They are trying to apply some of those things to just think differently about how we educate kids," he said.

Johnstone receives raise

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — The Dallas School Board approved Superintendent Michelle Johnstone's first year performance evaluation and a 3 percent raise Monday.

The raise matches the percentage given to employees in the current budget.

"In our opinion, and through the collection of evidence, Dr. Johnstone has displayed excellent per-

formance throughout the year and has many significant accomplishments for her first year as superintendent for Dallas School District," said a statement written by Jon Woods, the board's chairman.

The board praised Johnstone's leadership through a number of issues that arose during her first year, including student privacy issues, special education compliance litigation, policies on carrying concealed weapons

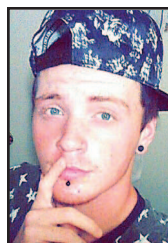
on school grounds and testing for lead.

Board members also said she has continued to build on a foundation of "collaboration, professional learning communities and strong instructional practices."

"I just appreciate your first year and your leadership," Mike Bollman, a member of the board, said on Monday.

Woods suggested the 3-percent increase, which was unanimously approved.

Search continues for youth missing from Monmouth



Banfield

Nathaniel Banfield was reported as a runaway to the Monmouth Police Department on Aug. 24. He was last seen on Aug. 17 in Monmouth by his mother.

Banfield, 17, also uses the names Nick Jackson, Junior and Junior Gallop.

He has blond hair, dyed black, and sometimes shaves his head. Banfield has green-blue eyes, is 5-8, and weighs 160 pounds. Banfield lives with his father in Aumsville, and had spent the summer in Monmouth with his mother.

Anyone with information about Banfield's whereabouts should call Monmouth Police Department at 503-838-1109.



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