



Commissioners Made Right Decision for Election Integrity

We applaud the decision on Tuesday by the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners not to authorize the previously-anticipated purchase of 54 electronic eSlate voting machines with recently acquired grant monies.

NewsLanc presented information to the Commissioners last week casting significant doubt on the reliability of these machines, which do not produce a voter-verified paper trail.

Other Inner-City Football Teams Kick Butt!

An implication of the Sept. 21st *Sunday News* article "McCaskey's Challenge" was that McCaskey High School's teams are performing so poorly because the players are subject to all of the disadvantages and problems of inner city youths.

Football coach Scott Feldman is quoted: "*It's hard to be good at [football], and we just don't have a lot of kids right now who are willing to do it. I don't think we'll have football at McCaskey in another couple years if we don't change some things.*"

To test whether the problem was inner city kids, *NewsLanc* investigated the 2007 win / loss records of

the other inner city high school football teams in our region.

Coatesville High School 5-5
Harrisburg High: 13-2
Reading High 3-7
York High (William Penn) 10-2

The above results seem to be at variance to the excuses being proffered for McCaskey's poor performance in football and other sports.

Let's not blame the kids for teams not being competitive. Rather, let's examine the proficiency and expectations of the athletic director and coaches.

WATCHDOG

NEW ERA: Its editorial of Sept. 19 opens with "*Kudos to the Lancaster General Hospital for boosting its payment in lieu of taxes by \$25,000 a month to the School District of Lancaster....This is money the nonprofit hospital is not required to give, but does so, anyway.*"

WATCHDOG: Anyone who still doubts a tacit alliance between the Lancaster Newspapers and Lancaster General Hospital as members of the big

Five (F & M, Fulton and High are the other three) should read this fawning homage.

No matter that the "nonprofit hospital" is profiting by over \$160 million a year from the region and that its total contributions – in lieu of county, city and school real estate taxes (which the rest of us have to pay) – amounts to only two and one-half per cent (2 1/2%) of its annual earnings!

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Judge Castigates *Intell* for “Total Breach of Ethical Responsibility”

According to an account in the Sept. 22 *New Era*: Judge Dennis Reinaker “scolded former County Coroner Dr. G. Gary Kirchner, this morning, placing him on one year of probation for giving newspaper reporters his password to a secured law-enforcement Web site.”

But perhaps of greater significance to our community, the *New Era* further reports that Judge Dennis Reinaker as saying:

“I would be remiss if I didn’t also acknowledge the wholly inappropriate role played by the various newspapers. Their focus on the pursuit of news, on getting the scoop if you will, resulted in a compromise of their integrity and a total breach of their ethical responsibility as well. While immunity from prosecution in return for their testimony in this case may well have been necessary, it in no way mitigates their complicity in this criminal behavior.”

In a lengthy editorial the following day, Editor Ray Shaw of the *Intelligencer Journal* sought to exonerate the reporters and, indirectly, himself by stating that “Kirchner voluntarily provided the Web site information to *Intell* reporters...[and] led the reporters to believe they were authorized to view the Web site ...”

Shaw does acknowledge that Reinaker’s accusation that the *Intell* was complicit “in this criminal behavior” does “reflect the attitude of the state attorney general’s office which conduct the investigation...”

NewsLanc believes what occurred here was representative of the fast and loose practices of the Lancaster Newspapers during the Conestoga View and Convention Center era.

There was no **Watchdog** then. There is now.

NewsLanc Exclusive from SD of L Superintendent Pedro Rivera

School District of Lancaster Superintendant Pedro Rivera responded to a *NewsLanc* request as follows:

“The School District of Lancaster serves a larger and more diverse student body, so we must be more thoughtful and strategic in the way we support our children and the community.”

“Sports play an integral role in many students’ lives. Not only do sports teach students about winning and losing, they also give students a sense of belonging – a sense of being part of a team. Coaches are responsible for more than running practices and coaching games. They must teach all aspects of sportsmanship, responsibility, accountability, and teamwork.”

“The District is highly committed to hiring an athletic director who shares that same vision.

McCaskey students have tremendous talent. It’s our job to make sure they’re given the ability to use it.”*

“This same belief holds true for all districts, not just urban districts. Drugs and alcohol, teenage pregnancies, and other issues reach far beyond inner cities.”

“Whether you’re a District employee, a parent or community member, it’s our job to provide our children with positive programs in which to participate in.”

“I expect to see significant changes in our athletic program in the near future. I won’t accept anything less.” *

** Emphasis added*

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