

# THE TIMES LEADER

## Northwest Area School District Touts Energy Savings at Session

By: Ralph Nardone

Published: October 21, 2010

UNION TWP. -- The Northwest Area School Board touted significant future energy savings at Wednesday night's regular meeting.

In August, the district hired Pittsburgh-based Linc Mechanical and Energy Technologies Inc. of Drums to study the district's heating and cooling systems to come up with ways to avoid continued inefficiencies and cost increases.

Board President Pete Lanza said the district has been looking at ways to improve energy efficiency over the last few years. The old heating system was burning 5,500 gallons of fuel per week, Lanza said, which was unacceptable.

Lanza said the district invested about \$1.5 million in a new energy plan but is expected to gain more than \$5 million over the next 15 years through cost savings. There won't be any tax increases, Lanza said.

According to a press release from the district, the overall plan included the installation new hot water boilers and piping, efficient lighting, wireless building systems controls, and new windows in the high school/middle school. It also included similar upgrades to the intermediate and primary schools.

Superintendent Nancy Tkatch said district staff appreciate the more comfortable climate control. She added the staff worked with Linc to develop educational programs to get students involved.

Board member and chairperson of the district buildings and grounds committee Daryl Morgan praised the work done by Linc representatives.

"They went above and beyond our expectations," he said.

In other discussions, baseball coach Lou DiPasquale along with several parents, students and members of the local little league implored the district to establish a middle school baseball team to enter into the Wyoming Valley Conference in the spring.

DiPasquale said the gap that exists between the local Little League and high school teams is causing players to quit baseball and pursue other sports between the ages of 12 and 16 when they enter high school.

Lanza said the \$11,000 required to set up middle school boys baseball and girls softball teams could be a problem. He asked if the team could include some fund-raising efforts.