

District considers YMCA child-care program

By Denise Larive
News Writer

The Pottstown Family YMCA could begin offering a child-care program in several Daniel Boone School District buildings as soon as this fall.

YMCA Executive Director Joan Daly said the program would result in a "seamless day" for participating students.

"This program will make it much easier for parents, because their children are right there at the school," Daly said. "We can provide financial assistance to parents until they are on their feet. Parents typically can't receive state assistance until they have worked 25 hours."

The school board is expected to vote on the program at its

June 26 meeting.

Child care would be available to district students, in kindergarten through fifth grade, from 6:30 a.m. until school begins and then from dismissal until 6 p.m. District Superintendent David H. Robbins said the YMCA would work with the district's schedule to be open during in-service days and weather-related closings, delays, and early closings. Child care would not be available for the nine national holidays.

Daly said the YMCA is still working with the district to decide where to offer the child care. Consideration is being given to Amity Primary Center, the Birdsboro Elementary Center, Amity Intermediate

Center and the Monocacy Center. The YMCA would rent the child care spaces for \$18 a day.

The Pottstown Family YMCA offers child care to 370 children from six weeks to five years in age. The YMCA currently manages programs at three area school districts: Owen J. Roberts, Pottstown and Pottsgrove. Robbins said the YMCA's rates would be comparable to other local child care agencies.

Daly said the YMCA needs board approval now to begin the process of receiving state licensing approvals and conducting background checks on all child-care staff. The YMCA will send correspondence and program information to families with

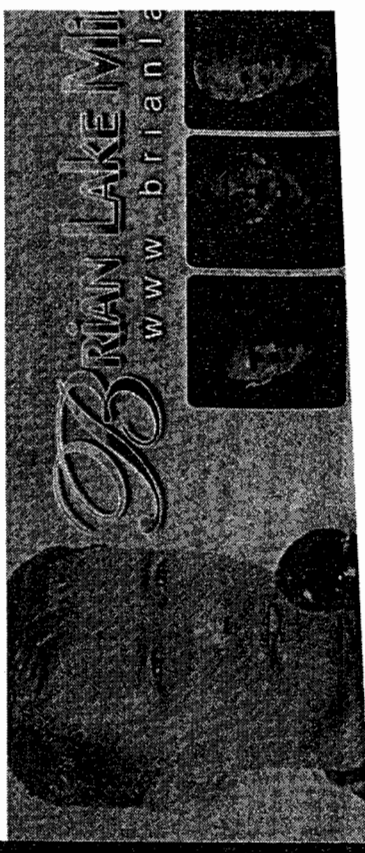
children in kindergarten through fifth grades.

Daly said state licensing requires that the YMCA's child-care program include homework help.

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