Committees Vote to Implement 4-year-old Program

Chronicle Staff Writer

School board members Walter Marshall and Geneva Brown agree that school board members who don't support a program for disadvantaged 4-year-olds don't support children.

"They don't understand what a program like this could do for 208 kids," Brown said. "They don't have any business being on the board of education."

Marshall added: "This is some of the best money the county can spend. It's a program we truly need."

Marshall and Brown were two board members who voted in support of implementing a pre-kindergarten program. The vote was taken during a joint meeting of the curriculum and finance committees. All board members were eligible to vote except Grace Efird, Gloria Whisenhunt and Nancy Wooten. The motion to implement the program passed 4 to 2. The committee recommendation will come before the full board for final approval tonight.

The program, officially named. Early Start, will begin Jan. 1, 1995 and last until the end of the school year. However, board members will have a chance to evaluate the program and vote on whether to keep the program going, amend it, or kill it. The only two opposing votes to implementing the program came from Jane Goins and Dale Folwell.

Staff members presented to board members an amended Pre-K proposal with an added proposed

Staff proposed a \$1,096,567 budget for the first year. That cost would decrease in the second year to \$741,316 because there would be no start-up cost.

For the first year \$650,000 would come from the county commissioners and the other \$446,567 would come from the school system. School officials said \$300,000 of that money is designated for renovating Diggs Elementary School, a

proposed site for five classes. That money is already accounted for in the present budget. All the school system has to find in its budget is

Folwell and Goins had the same arguments they have proposed since the proposed program was first introduced. They believe preparing a child for kindergarten is the parent's responsibility. Goins said in earlier comments that the program subsidizes day care. She added that she has problems because the program would only be offered to certain not all - children.

Marshall said he hoped there was no class or racial prejudice mixed with the opposition to the program.

"I was proud to be able to send my children to a private day care, but I would not begrudge the parents who can't afford it," he said. "It's like we're saying the kids are responsible for their conditions, and that's not right."

Nancy Wooten pointed out that

there is a misconception that only poor children are eligible for the program. A child's economic level does not determine if he can participate in the program, she said. Children deemed the most academically deprived will be chosen for the pro-

Daisy Chambers, a school staff member, said usually there is a correlation between academically deprived and economically deprived, but that is not always the case. She cited an instance of a prek program where one student was a doctor's son.

Board members who support the program say paying for a pre-k program now will help save cost to taxpayers down the road. Staff members cited studies that show children who participate in a prekindergarten program turn out to be more productive citizens.

"If we spend the money on the front end we may spend fewer dollars on the back end," Nancy Griffith said. "For that reason, I think we should give it a try."

"We need to look at the implications for the future," Marshall said. "Incarcerations already cost and the paying is not going to get better but worse."

Supportive or not, all board members were concerned about budget implications for next year.

. While commissioners have agreed to help with funding the first year, it's uncertain if the program will get the same support next year John Holleman, who proposed the program, is going off the board and so is Chairman Wayne Willard, both of whom supported the program.

Griffith suggested that when the school system requests money from the commissioners for the program the next fiscal year, the pre-K program be separate from the regular K-12 budget. But, Wooten said she thinks there will not be a big problem with commissioners because she spoke with candidates for the seats who said they would support a pre-K program.



Geneva Brown



Watter Marshall

Safety Committee Looks at Possible Guidelines for Review Board

Chronicle Staff Writer

The board of aldermen's public safety committee reviewed a plan by the city's staff Monday that could establish guidelines to evaluate the citizens police review board.

However, many citizens feel it's not necessary to evalutate the police review board to determine whether it should exist.

"It was born out of necessity, so I think we've already proven that we need it," said Rev. John Mendez, a member of Citizen's United for Justice. "Our concern is that the police review board look at more cases and have the freedom to do their work."

Mendez said he doesn't mind the review board having guidelines, but said they should determine how it reviews cases, instead of if it's

Alexander Beaty, an assistant city manager, said the city couldn't provide a purely scientific process to evaluate the review board, but said it would consist of statistical information on citizen complaints, a self-evaluation, an internal operations review by the city staff and public opinion.

The proposed evaluation looks at two questions: Does the review board promote fairness in the police treatment of citizens; and does the review board build community confidence that police are being held accountable in a fair and objective. manner for their treatment of citi-

Committee member Nancy Pleasants wanted the evaluation to supply statistical data concerning police morale during the two-year period that the review board has been in existence.

Pleasants, the alderman who proposed the compromise to evaluate the review board after two years, also said the evaluation should include comments from the police chief and district attorney.

Beaty said the evaluation will study a two year period before the review board's inception and the two-year period of the review board from May 1993 until May 1995.

"The statistical information wouldn't try to suggest anything, it's just there for you to review," Beaty said. "It won't show a correlation between police morale and the inception of the review board. I haven't heard any officers in their exit interview say they have left because of it, and I haven't heard any recruits say they came here

because we had a review board." Vivian Burke, chairman of the public safety committee, said the evaluation should not focus onmorale only within the duration of

the review board because morale evaluate it and be fair without the has been a concern for years, she

North Ward Alderman Nelson Malloy said he is still reviewing the proposal and feels the community should have input on the review board's evaluation.

"I don't know how they can

community," he said. "Right now we're just looking at this proposal to decide if we want to accept it as guidelines for the evaluation man and member of CUJ, said the

Malloy suggested that other community groups such as Citizen's United for Justice - a group that

pushed for the establishings of the review board, - be allowed to offer their suggestions.

Larry Womble, a former aldergroup will be meeting this week to examine the city's proposal and possibly delight puidelines of a town.

Forsyth Commissioner Witnesses Signing of Clinton's Crime Bill

By VERONICA CLEMONS Chronicle Staff Writer

Forsyth County Commissioner Earline Parmon was at the White. House Tuesday to witness President Bill Clinton sign into law a \$30 billion crime bill.

Parmon is representing the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. She is chairman of the Community Justice and Public Safety Steering Commit-

The ceremony of the bill signing took place at 10 a.m.

This is not the first time Parmon traveled to the Capitol on the crime bill issue. During the turmoil of whether the bill was going to make it out of Congress, Parmon went there to lobby for its support.

Even though about \$3 billion of the original proposal was cut, Parmon said she is glad the bill finally

There is still enough in place to make a difference in local communities and fund some programs to prevent violence," she said.

The bill authorizes spending about \$13.5 billion for state, local and federal police, including \$8.8 billion to help hire 100,000 new police officers for community polic-

Parmon is not joined in her enthusiasm for the bill's passage by Congressman Mel Wat, D-N.C. Watt said in a statement that he opposed the bill for several reasons, including the absence of the Racial Justice Act, and there was no assurance that programs would actually be funded.

The Racial Justice Act would allow defendants to challenge the death penalty on grounds that racial minorities are more likely to be sentenced to death.

Parmon said she and other supporters of the programs will continue to work to ensure that appropriations in the bill are funded.

North Carolina's other black congressman, Eva C.ayton, voted for the bill.

Winston-Salem Chronicle

GREAT ROLL YEARS

1975 1978 1981 1982 1983

1989 38 BEEF 1989

B 17 18

For a limited time only, you can get a regular 2-year subscription for only \$20.95! That's just 20¢ per copy (104 issues). Regular price \$40.55...ACT NOW!!!

☐ Yes!! I want to save \$20.00

☐ Send 2-year Subscription for \$20.95 ☐ Send 2-year Gift Subscription for \$20.95

NAME:

ADDRESS:

In Celebration of our

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Workshops to be Held

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Coalition on Alcohol and Drug Problems will present two workshops for substance abuse treatment professionals on Sept. 20 at the Forsyth Stokes Mental Health Center. Dr. Charles Grubbs, Chief of Quality Service for the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, Division of Mental Heaith, Development Disabilities and Substance Services, will present these workshops as part of Treatment Works! Month. The workshops are offered to assist treatment professionals in demonstrating and documenting that services provided improve the quality of life for clients and improve the quality of life in communities.

For more information on the workshop on the coalition, call 723-

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

If gift, name of sender:

Add \$5.00 for deliveries outside Forsyth county • Return to Winston-Salem Chronicle, P.O. Box 1636, Winston-Salem, NC 27102