

BOE

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black, struck his gavel and told them to stop, saying he could clear the room as the chant grew loud enough to drown out the board members. El-Amin calmed the crowd down, telling them to not be discouraged, and to come out and take advantage of the Saturdays

during early voting. The audience applauded and was silent as the board moved on to the next item and a security officer arrived. The students in the audience promptly left after that.

At the end of the meeting, Russell said he was disappointed a "racial slur" was directed at Raymond, even if it was by black students. Raymond said he

felt it was part on an attitude that all black people have to think alike and cannot be Republicans. Fleming said Raymond handled the situation well, not telling security to arrest anyone or make them leave, which he has the authority to do under statute.

The two Republican board members said they wanted to keep Sims as the

polling site because N.C. DOT assured them that traffic access across 52 would return to normal after the construction, which is scheduled to end next summer. They said they didn't see a reason to permanently move the site for a temporary situation. El-Amin said that doesn't help the majority of voters in the precinct, who live on the other side of 52, in this

election.

"It's not going to be open for November at all," he said.

El-Amin also argued that the board should listen to the overwhelming public outcry for the site, and that "prejudice" against WSSU was the only reason he can think of for continuing to deny a voting site at Anderson.

The other site changes

the board considered went off without incident. The board voted unanimously to keep First Alliance Church in Precinct 602 when a suitable alternate site couldn't be found. The board voted unanimously to move the polling place in Precinct 709 from Ward Elementary School to Hope Moravian Church because it has better traffic access and parking.

Playground

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Hawkins, who serves as the president of the Rose of Sharon/Dreamland Neighborhood Association, said after running into a few road blocks in the early stages of planning, key partnerships with the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, the City of Winston-Salem and "KaBoom!", a non-profit dedicated to bringing balanced and active play into the daily lives of all kids, helped turn his idea to bring a play area to East Winston into reality.

"Although we started slow, we just kept moving forward. When you have a goal, you don't stop because you run into interference," he continued. "You're always going to run into interference, but we stayed persistent and continued to push."

While most of the overhead expenses have been taken care of by the City and Kate B. Reynolds, the neighborhood will have to raise \$8,500 to complete the project.

According to Hawkins, although they are still working to reach their goal, a number of organizations and individuals in the community have already pledged to make donations. During an interview with The Chronicle earlier this week, Hawkins noted Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods is one of the organizations that has stepped up in a major way.

"I can't say enough about the help we have received from Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods. They have done everything to make sure this project is a success," he said.

A number of organizations have also volunteered their services for construction duty on the morning of the event. Crosby Scholars, the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, the East Winston Neighborhood Association, Slater Park Neighborhood Association, and countless others have already inked their names to help put everything into place on Playground Build Day.

Hawkins said, "We want everyone to be a part of this. Although the playground is at 14th Street, we want it to serve all the neighborhoods in that area."

"Although we live in different neighborhoods, we are all working to make East Winston a better place," he continued. "This is going to benefit a lot of people. I'm excited to be a part of this project."

Later that day, after construction is complete, city officials will join more than 200 volunteers to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the project. Playground Build Day is set to begin at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24. On Thursday, Sept. 22, volunteers will meet at the site to make necessary preparations for the event.

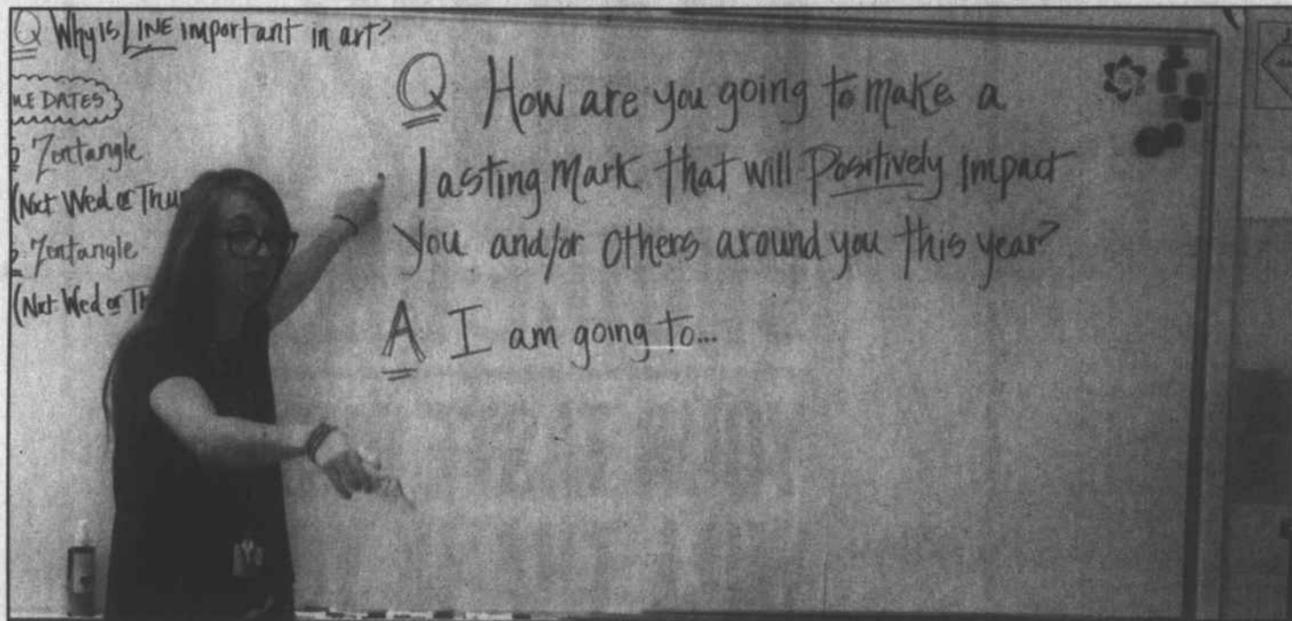
To volunteer for Playground Build Day or to make a donation, contact Sean Hawkins by email at dreamland-parkassoc@gmail.com.



L to R) Dequantez Wilson and Jashawn Robinson work on their bricklaying technique during class on Friday, Sept. 16. Wilson and Robinson are enrolled in the Construction and Design Academy offered at Kennedy High School.



Students in the ProStart Academy at Kennedy High School prepare food during a recent class. The ProStart Academy gives students a taste of what it's like to work in the food industry.



Photos by Tevin Stinson
Kaitlin Krossman, a teacher in the Creative Education Academy at John F. Kennedy High School, leads an art lesson on Friday, Sept. 16. Small classroom sizes allow teachers at the school to focus more on the needs of the students.

Kennedy

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Thanks to a grant, Kennedy now operates under a new educational system that focuses on Career and Technical Education (CTE) that offers hands-on experiences and the opportunity to receive a technical certification to go along with their high school diploma.

Although students still have the same graduation requirements as other high schools across the state and county, incoming ninth graders at Kennedy have the opportunity to choose between four Career Academies: Creative

Enterprises, Construction and Design, Health Science (Pharmacy Technician) or ProStart (Restaurant Management).

The ProStart academy created by the National Restaurant Association gives students a taste of what it's like to work in the food industry, one of the fastest growing industries in the country. Students who choose the Creative Enterprises academy explore the creative arts, such as graphic design, photography and other visual media.

Construction and Design exposes students to a number of facets of the construction industry, while the Pharmacy

Technician pathway prepares our future doctors and nurses to take on the ever-changing world of healthcare.

Senior Krista Gomez who is currently enrolled in the Health Science Academy said she decided to attend Kennedy because she wanted to get a head start on reaching her goal to become an anesthesiologist.

During an interview with The Chronicle last week, Gomez said now that she has taken courses in the field since she was a ninth grader, she is confident that she has the background knowledge to achieve her goal.

She also noted that the

small class sizes was another reason she decided to attend Kennedy. Gomez mentioned the smaller class sizes allow teachers and students to really connect with each other.

"The teachers here have grown with us," said Gomez. "Teachers here get to know students on a personal level. They're not only our teachers, but they are like our mentors as well."

The school's principal Keisha Gabriel said when she got the word that she would be leaving her position as assistant principal at East Forsyth earlier this school year, she was excited about joining the Kennedy Family.

"I got lucky to be here with this wonderful staff," said Gabriel. "The faculty and staff here have worked tirelessly not only to change the image of the school, but to change the students as well."

"Everything we do here at Kennedy is student centered. Our new focus as a district is on the core values and one of those values is to be more student centered, but Kennedy already has that here," she continued. "Whatever works best for the students is what we do. The staff here will go out of their way to make sure students have what they need to be successful."

Gabriel mentioned she

identifies with the students at Kennedy because as a high school student in Atlanta, she was just like them.

"I was that at-risk child in every way you could imagine," she said. "If it wasn't for the support of teachers who took me under their wings and showing me different options, then I don't know where I would've been."

"Working here at Kennedy is a rewarding experience. It's the work I know all parents would want their children to experience. All schools in the district do their best to reach students, but Kennedy is a great place to be to see students grow."

City

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Public Relations Manager Tiffany Wright.

The city's Emergency Management Director Mel Sadler offered similar advice to local drivers. He said, "We want to remind everybody to not be overly apprehensive and start hoarding gasoline."

"We don't want anyone storing gasoline in your home or in your automobile. That could lead to a very dangerous situation," he said. "We want to ask everybody to be careful and not be too apprehensive."

At least one gas station in Winston-Salem has been accused of price gouging and is subject to prosecution.

Assistant City Manager Derwick Paige said about 1,000 city owned vehicles would be parked until a shipment is received. Paige noted while police officers, first responders and sanitation workers will not be affected by the gas shortage, non-essential services such as inspections, recreation and parks field maintenance,

and minor street and building repairs would be suspended as a result of the gas shortage.

"With the current fuel we have on hand, it will get us through the next three days," said Paige. "We expect those services to be back in their normal routines after the next shipment we are expecting as early as Wednesday."

Paige noted although the city has enough gas to last, they wanted to be prepared and felt the need to take precautionary measures. As of Monday, the city had 91,000 gallons of fuel. He mentioned police and sanitation only use about 11,000 gallons a week, while fire trucks and other similar vehicles use diesel fuel.

According to Paige, the line that supplies diesel fuel was not damaged.

"We would rather be safe than sorry," he said.



Photo by Tevin Stinson
A member of the police department fills his tank at the City Yard on Monday, Sept. 19. While non-essential services were suspended as a result of the pipeline break, police, first responders and sanitation were not impacted.