

N.C. principal of the year

Continued from page 1A that."

Yates won \$3,000 and a one-year term with the N.C. Board of Education.

A 37-year education veteran, she took her first job as principal at Northeast Middle School in 1993, and it was her upbringing that became the foundation for the approach she takes in being a high school principal.

Even though Yates tries to share the values of her past with students, she is aware that she can't simply let her philosophy of education be a trickle down effect, so she creates an atmosphere that is more realistic.

"I took a school that is so big - 2,500 kids - and put them in little groups so I could work with them more efficiently and effectively," she said "I developed a comprehensive plan based on what we could do to increase their grades and decrease (suspensions) to make sure they graduate."

Yates says that one of her strengths is that she has good relationships with her kids.

"I accept people for who

they are and as long as children see that you're respecting them, working on their behalf, and that you listen to them, it doesn't matter what decision you make, what matters is whether they were allowed to have their voice heard," Yates said. "That's the difference for all people especially for minorities because they feel like they're not being heard."

Girls basketball coach Troy Gaston describes Yates as fair, even if everyone doesn't appreciate the job she is doing.

"Mrs. Yates is not a fool," Gaston said. "She understands that not everyone loves her, and appreciates her but those that do, they view her as a nurturer, a mother figure, and that's from the staff. She's fair minded... and if you can accept that, then you have no problem with Mrs. Yates."

Students agree

"Everybody loves Mrs. Yates," senior Demi Dawkins said. "She's like the cool principal because she lets us do a lot of stuff. But we know when to stop playing and listen.

She knows how to let us go and have fun, but then make us straighten up when it's time to be serious. This school would be chaotic without Mrs. Yates."

To really grasp the impact that Yates makes on the entire student body is to witness a flock of African American girls grinning as they hang on her every word at lunch or white boys seeking her out for help by addressing her as "Mom." Yates has the pulse of the school in her hand, and she treasures it.

"I have a good relationship with the kids because I'm out at lunch, I know a lot of their names, I know most of them by sight, and some of them I have a good relationship with so they'll come and talk to me," she said. "When I punish, I punish the behavior, not the student, I have a bond with the parents as well, I address their issues. It might not be the answer they want but I do address it. Anywhere you go, if you don't take ownership then you're not doing a good job."



Greg's serious about everything he does.
For work and for fun.

Focus, focus, focus. That's Greg's mantra. At home, at work, on the links. And it could very well explain his success at all three. This is the kind of commitment and drive your North Carolina electric cooperatives offer in every community we serve. We realize you depend on our dedication. To cool your home. To light up your night. Even to keep people like Greg connected when he works late.



Inner city activists want new CMS chief to address their pressing issues

Continued from page 3A

board are among the issues facing the district. Economic segregation and a stubborn student achievement gap at high-poverty schools concerns inner city proponents. Gorman needs to find a way to address those issues without further splitting support for the schools.

"He faces serious challenges to unify the district," said Charlotte-Mecklenburg NAACP President Kenneth

White. "Unless some things change dramatically, our schools will segregate more than they already are. It's obvious our system is not equal."

With task forces suggesting radical change at CMS and polls showing a potential bond referendum would fail without new leadership, inner city activists are worried middle-class suburban activists are driving the education debate.

"That's a concern we have," White said. "It appears African American and other minority children will be affected by changes. What happens in our schools happens to all schools. If you

improve your worst schools, then your other schools will get better."

Regardless of politics, Gorman's challenge will be creating a cohesive plan that instills confidence in a school district that hasn't had much in recent years.

"You need to have the type of leadership that will bring the community together," McElrath said. "He's going to have to find a way to get people to sit down."

Said White: "We always have hope. We hope to develop a dialogue with Mr. Gorman and share our concerns. It's a glaring situation regarding low-performing schools."

Give family and friends The Post. Call (704) 376-0496 for subscriptions. The Charlotte Post

CAR INSURANCE WITH PERSONAL SERVICE. NO EXTRA CHARGE.

Paul E Dockery Ins Agcy Inc
Paul E Dockery, Agent
10230 Berkeley Place Dr
Charlotte, NC 28262
Bus: 704-547-1277

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company • State Farm Indemnity Company • Bloomington, IL • statefarm.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS REGARDING SECTION A OF THE PROPOSED MONROE BYPASS FROM US 74 WEST OF ROCKY RIVER ROAD TO US 601 SOUTH OF RIDGE ROAD

Project 8.T690401 • R-2559A • Union County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will hold the above informal public meetings on:
April 27, 2006 from 4PM to 8PM at the Monroe Country Club, 1680 Pageland Highway, Monroe.

May 3, 2006 from 4PM to 8PM at the South Piedmont Community College, Building A, 4209 Old Charlotte Highway, Monroe.

NCDOT is requesting that MUMPO (Mecklenburg Union Metropolitan Planning Organization) add Section A of the Monroe Bypass to its Long-Range Transportation Plan and its Thoroughfare Plan. The Department's current Transportation Improvement Program includes funding for construction of Sections B and C of the Bypass (US 601 east to US 74 near Marshville). Section A is currently scheduled for post years (after 2012) in the Transportation Improvement Program. The three Sections provide logical termini or endpoints for the Bypass, enable the Bypass to provide independent utility, and were studied within the original NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) environmental document that was prepared for the project.

Because of the age of the NEPA environmental document (1997) for the Monroe Bypass, the Department is preparing a reevaluation of the original document. The completion of the NEPA document reevaluation is needed before any portion of the Bypass can be let to contract. During the course of the reevaluation study, it was discovered that MUMPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan did not include Section A of the Bypass. The project must be on the Long-Range Transportation Plan and the air conformity analysis must include Section A of the Bypass in order for the Department to be able to complete the NEPA document reevaluation for the Monroe Bypass.

Again, the completion of the reevaluation of the NEPA document as well as receipt of the environmental permits will enable the Department to move forward to construction on the funded portions of the Bypass. It will also better enable the Department to advance Section A of the Bypass when funding becomes available.

Three alternative alignments for Section A will be presented for public comments at these meetings. Interested individuals may attend these sessions at their convenience between the above stated times and locations. Department of Transportation representatives will be available to supply information and answer questions on an individual basis in an informal setting.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Mr. John Conforti at 919-733-3141 or 1548 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1548. Written comments will be received for a period of 15 days following the meetings. They should be sent to Mr. Conforti at the above address.

A map showing the potential impact area is available for review at the NCDOT District Office, 130 S. Southerland Avenue, Monroe and at the City of Monroe Planning Office - 1st Floor, 300 West Crowell Street, Monroe. More detailed maps will be shown at the meetings.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons who wish to participate in the meeting to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To receive special services, please contact Mr. Conforti at the above address or phone number or fax 919-733-9794 to provide adequate notice prior to the date of the meetings so that arrangements can be made.

THE LAW OFFICE OF CHIEGE O. KALU OKWARA



Areas of Practice:

- Criminal (federal & state)
- Juvenile
- Civil litigation (federal & state)
- Immigration
- Employment Discrimination
- Drug Offenses
- Misdemeanors
- Automobile Accidents
- Personal Injury
- Contracts & Business Services

QUALIFICATIONS

L.L.B (Hons) Univ. of Lagos, Nigeria, 1982

B.L. (Hons) Nigeria, 1983

L.L.M. Harvard University, 1985

L.L.M. (Int. Legal Studies) NYU, 1987

J.D. University of North Carolina, 1994

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

New York State Bar, North Carolina State Bar, Licensed in Federal Court, Eastern District of NY, Licensed in Federal Court, Southern District of NY, Licensed in Federal Court, Western District of NC, Licensed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

BALLANTYNE ONE • 15720 JOHN J. DELANEY DR. #300 704.944.3221