

School Board Approves Hikes In Salaries, Buys Computers

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

The Madison County Board of Education authorized five percent salary increases for some locally paid personnel and moved into the computer age by approving the purchase of four computers to be used by the school system.

At its December meeting on Monday salary increases were approved for school lunchroom personnel at the request of Debbie Ponder Baker, School Food Service director. She said the five percent increase would cost the board an estimated \$4,800 "through the rest of the school year."

Other salary increases were requested by Isabelle Whitt, school finance officer, for secretarial and maintenance personnel. Whitt said the five percent increases for the seven employees would amount to \$2,990 in local expenses for the next six months. Employees granted raises were Sandra Fowler, Shirley Sexton, Ann Arrowood, James Shelton, Ray Marley, J.D. Buckner and Aaron Ponder.

The board also approved the purchase of four computers, three of which will be used in the schools for educational purposes, and the fourth will be

housed in the board of education office for both educational and accounting purposes, according to Superintendent Robert L. Edwards.

Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, school supervisor, said three of the Apple II Plus 48K computers were purchased for a total of \$9,477.97. They will be placed initially at Mars Hill, Marshall and Laurel elementary schools and used by students in grades 4-6, she said. The units will later be rotated among the three other elementary schools until the board can purchase additional units, hopefully next fall, Rice said.

The fourth computer, which is estimated to cost between \$6,000 and \$7,000, will be used in the board of education office.

In other action, the board:

- Approved six budget amendments totalling some \$42,416 for the 1981-82 budget. The categories included the high school work-study program, \$10,313; high school text books, \$881; Capital outlay, \$11,800; instructional supplies, \$1,077; ESEA-Title I, \$13,466; and the handicapped program, \$4,879.

- Approved Christmas bonuses of \$5 per month for bus drivers.
- Approved the 1982 school board

meeting calendar. Beginning Jan. 6, the board will hold its meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Madison County Courthouse.

- Accepted a low bid of \$7,238.73 from Able Fence Co. of Black Mountain for the construction of a chainlink fence and gates at the new Marshall-Walnut elementary school site.

- Approved renewal of liability insurance coverage for the board, Supt. Edwards, and Dr. Owen Fish for the next three years at a total premium cost of \$1,967.

- Approved the renewal of flood insurance for Marshall Elementary School and title I contents for a three year period for a total cost of \$3,380.

- Approved a recommendation to move a mobile classroom unit from Spring Creek Elementary School to the Marshall-Walnut Elementary School site for use as a library and lunchroom.

- Supt. Edwards informed the board that Dr. Craig Phillips, state superintendent of public instruction, will be at Madison High School on Monday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 a.m. for a breakfast. Edwards invited the board members and The News Record to attend.



FIRST WOMAN MAYOR — Deborah Ponder Baker was sworn in Monday night as Hot Springs first woman mayor in the town's history.

Beall Replaces Messer

Charles Beall of Clyde officially became a representative in the North Carolina General Assembly Tuesday when Gov. Jim Hunt signed a proclamation appointing him as the successor to Ernest B. Messer of Canton effective Tuesday.

The official appointment follows the selection of Beall by the 44th House District executive committee, which elected Beall unanimously on Nov. 14. Beall's seat in the House will come up for re-election in 1982.

Walnut Goodies

By EMMA LOU WAMBLES
LOCAL VETERINARY CLINIC

Candace Aldridge Durden, registered veterinary technician who attends to office duties of the Madison Veterinary Clinic II at Walnut, assists Dr. J.R. Allen, who does follow-ups, conducts vaccination clinics in other locations and is available for emergencies or questions anytime. She states that business is on the incline since knowledge of the clinic has spread. She also says they plan to increase services as demand increases.

Dr. Allen is at the branch office Mondays 1 to 6, Fridays to 6 and Saturdays 9 till 2. Emergencies are treated anytime. The clinic brings much needed veterinary services offered to our large and small animals in the area.

WCDC ACTIVITIES
Walnut Community Development Club members are awaiting the return of their president, Mrs. Lucille Burnette, who is in Washington as a delegate to the 1981 White House Conference on Aging. She and seven other members of the club attended the luncheon at the Inn On The Plaza Saturday sponsored by the Western North Carolina Community Development Association. Other members attending were Cloice and Ernestine Plemmons, Tom and Ethel Wallin, Juanita Tradway, Betty Jo Treadway and Emma Lou Wambles.

ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL

Wednesday night Walnut traveled to Hot Springs to play four games. Hot Springs 3rd and 4th grade girls defeated Walnut with a final score of 4-2. Tayna Gunter and Patrick Roberts made two points each for Hot Springs. Angie Rice scored Walnut's 2 points.

The 3rd and 4th grade boys played a close game with no score at all until late in the game. Walnut won that game to maintain their record of no losses. Final score was Walnut 3, Hot Springs 2. Chris Hunter scored 2 points for Walnut. Kelly Harrison scored 2 points for Hot Springs.

Sonia Gahagan led Hot Springs' 5th and 6th grade girls to victory with 17 points to her credit. Final score was Hot Springs 26, Walnut 4. Kathy Worley scored Walnut's 4 points.

The 5th and 6th grade boys game was another win for Hot Springs. The final score was Hot Springs 22, Walnut 9. Todd Snelson and Steve Goforth shared high scorer's position with 8 points each for Hot Springs. Randy McDevitt was Walnut's high scorer with 6 points.

Walnut's 7th and 8th grade teams played Mars Hill at Mars Hill Thursday night. The girls' game was nip and tuck until the last quarter when Mars Hill moved out ahead. Final score was Mars Hill 24, Walnut 15. Sherry Davis led Mars Hill with 8 points. Angie Buckner was Walnut's high scorer with 4 points. Shirley Huffman ran a close second with 3 points.

The boys also played hard

and close until late in the game when Mars Hill again moved ahead to finish the game 34-27. Mars Hill's high scorer was David Robinson with 14 points. Donald Adams and Paul Frisby shared high scorer's position with 12 points each.

The game at Laurel Tuesday night was a disappointment for Walnut's 7th and 8th grade boys who attempted to play with only four team members present. They forfeited the game at half time. The Walnut Booster

Club send regrets to Laurel. Laurel girls won their game. That is all the information available at this time.

BENEFIT GAME

Three adult games were played at Walnut last Saturday night sponsored by the Walnut Booster Club with proceeds to go toward a score clock for Walnut School. The benefit games were also a warm-up for adult games to begin after the elementary season is over.

The first game was between Walnut and Spillcorn men.

The outcome of that game was Walnut 69, Spillcorn 40. Walnut and Marshall ladies played next. Their final score was Marshall 34, Walnut 24.

Walnut men went up again; against Marshall men this time. They won that game also with a final score of Walnut 59, Marshall 50.

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Secretary Of The Month
Mrs. Helen Rice

Helen is Secretary To Mr. A.E. Leake, Attorney At Law. She Has Worked For Mr. Leake For 13 Years; Their Office Is Located On Main Street In Marshall. Helen Is Married To Rankin Rice And They Reside In The Route 1 Area Of Marshall.

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