

Curriculum Part Of 5-Year Plan To Guide Schools

BY TERRY POPE

A five-year plan outlining school curriculum, facility and student needs for the future will be developed by School Superintendent Gene Yarbrough if the board of education approves the project at Monday night's meeting.

Yarbrough said the outline is needed to guide the school system in its development, so that in "three years we can say we have developed up to this level, and so on."

Improving and expanding an already tightly-organized school curriculum was the topic of a public hearing Monday night at Shalotte Middle School. Only a few parents and teachers attended the hearing that focused on such classroom subjects as art, Spanish, human development, summer enrichment courses and the schools' gifted program.

Board member Doug Baxley said the hearing was not a "mandatory thing, but an opportunity to receive ideas and suggestions from the community."

"I wish more parents had come out to see what is going on in the schools," said board member Jane Causey. "Just having someone tell you about it is different than seeing it for yourself."

Another public hearing was scheduled at Leland Middle School Tuesday night at 7 p.m. with a final public hearing on classroom subjects set for Tuesday, March 5, at 7 p.m. at South Brunswick Middle School.

Along with adding new and improved courses to the school curriculum is the need to revamp the vocational programs and science departments, Yarbrough said. Courses that are state funded will undergo evaluation the same as with courses that now require additional local funds, such as the New Model Me program, he added.

Recently-proposed changes in the schools' science curriculum can be achieved "without a big increase in funding of those programs," said Assistant Superintendent Ed Lemon. "There will be some extra dollars involved, but not a tremendous increase."

Some courses, such as Spanish, or even Latin, could be added to an individual school's curriculum on an exploratory basis using state funds,

Yarbrough said. However, he added it was not a "likelihood that the school system can expand into another language" next year.

Shalotte Middle School Principal Mark Owens has discussed adding Latin as an exploratory course, but filling the teacher's position would be difficult, Yarbrough said.

Adding a human development course to teach sex education to elementary or middle school students is "something this community needs to tell us they want" if it is to be taught in the public schools, Lemon said.

Owens said his school sent a survey recently to 200 student homes asking parents if they supported a human development course. If they were interested, it asked if they would be willing to pay \$6 to help fund the teacher.

"Out of 200, we received 13 positive responses," Owens said. There were no negative responses, and only the 13 were returned, he said.

Greta Saunders, an art instructor at the school, also asked for better art programs in the elementary and middle schools. Students are also being held back by being required to take an introductory art course when entering high school, she said.

"This is one area where we will need greater work—arts and fine arts," Yarbrough said.

The schools are currently working with Brunswick Technical College to provide after school courses for students age 16 or older, Yarbrough said. An SAT preparation course has already been added, with BTC willing to fund teachers for other programs. The courses would provide students with advanced placement in college.

Starting next year, the schools' gifted program will also be expanded to include kindergarten and first grades if approved by the board in the spring, Yarbrough said.

The need for full-time health services at each school was pointed out by Owens, who added, "Children don't just get sick the day the nurse comes, and they don't have problems just on Tuesdays."

There's never enough money to do everything, he added, but more school nurses and psychologists are needed in the schools.



Miss Brunswick Tech Crowned

Tina Sims of Long Beach, center with bouquet of roses, was crowned Miss Brunswick Technical College Saturday night during the school's first pageant at Shalotte Middle School. Other finalists are, from left, Susan Allen, first runner-up; Angela McKeithan, second runner-up; Annette

Stanley, third runner-up and Miss Congeniality; and Anna Varnum, best interview for a non-finalist. The competition was open to any BTC female student enrolled in a program for at least nine credit hours and working towards a degree. There were fourteen entries.

Hints Of Spring To Remain In Local Weather

A hint of spring should remain in the air over the next few days with temperatures continuing above normal.

Daily temperatures should range from the low- to mid-40s at night into the low- to mid-60s during the day, said Shalotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Precipitation should be near normal, about one-half inch, he predicted.

Canady termed the spring-like weather of the past week "a teaser," a harbinger of spring.

"But we'll have more winter weather to contend with before spring arrives," he added.

For the period Feb. 19-25, temperatures averaged eight degrees above normal, with an average daily temperature of 57

degrees. A maximum high reading of 81 degrees occurred on the 25th, with a minimum nightly low of 26 degrees

recorded just a few days earlier on the 21st.

An average daily high temperature of 71 degrees combined with an

average morning low of 43 degrees for the daily average of 57 degrees.

Canady recorded .75 inch of rain on his gauge.

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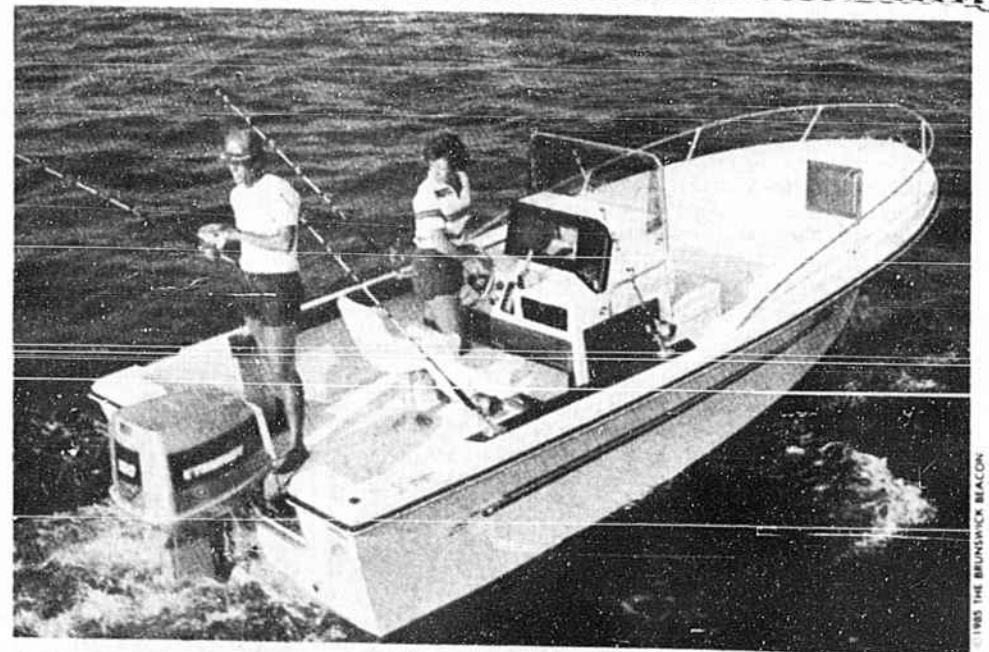
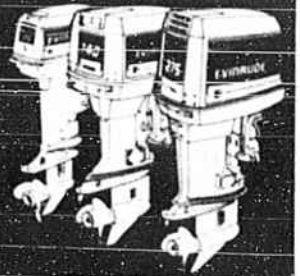
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