

# Firm Proposes To Cut Schools' Energy Costs

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County schools can help save on energy costs by taking down fluorescent light fixtures from its gyms and placing them in older classroom buildings. That is only one of the suggestions listed in an engineering report by A.E. LeBlanc Inc. of Raleigh, who is seeking an energy management contract with the schools.

LeBlanc recently completed an engineering study at all 11 county schools to determine how close the company estimated its energy savings to the board. A.E. LeBlanc told the board Monday an estimated \$121,308 annually in energy savings is close to what the schools can expect to receive.

To help the schools save on utility bills, the company would install computerized equipment that would monitor room temperatures and heating and cooling systems. When the systems are installed, the company would be able to monitor each school individually from its Raleigh office, LeBlanc said.

Most of the older classroom buildings use incandescent lighting, with 300-watt bulbs, while fluorescent lights would be more economical, LeBlanc said. Also, there are far too many fluorescent lights used to light the schools' gyms, he added.

Adopting the energy-saving system would cost the schools \$241,236, which would be paid over a five-year period from the schools' guaranteed energy savings. The schools would pay 75 percent of its energy savings to the company for five years and keep 25 percent for cash flow.

If the company produces more than \$120,000 in savings, then the schools would divide the added savings with the company on a 50-50 basis. For the five-year period, the schools' annual utility allocation would not increase, which School Superintendent Gene Yarbrough said pleased County Manager Billy Carter, who has anticipated increas-

ed funding from the county commissioners for school utilities in the coming years.

"That's the attractive element to all this," Yarbrough said. "It will hold the line on energy costs, so we won't be going back for an increase in our budget."

### Curriculum Changed

Calculus will be offered in the high schools next year, giving students a fifth math for those who started taking algebra in the eighth grade.

Assistant School Superintendent Ed Lemon presented the curriculum change Monday night along with changes in the science department. Starting next year, eighth-graders will also take "integrated science" rather than earth science.

Earth science will be offered in the ninth grade as a physical science. Integrated science will cover a wide variety of topics to help build student interests in the field of science.

The change is part of a program to revise the science curriculum for grades K-8 that will be introduced to the board at a later date.

### Budget Amended

A series of budget amendments approved Monday night will help pay for air conditioning coils at Southport Primary School and a \$15,800 bill presented by school board attorney E.J. Prevatte.

According to school finance officer Samuel Adcock, Prevatte presented the bill at the last meeting for his three years of service to the board, but the board did not have the available funds to pay the attorney.

The attorney has worked for three years helping the schools collect from the courts more than \$280,000 in drug fines and bond forfeitures. Several of the cases Prevatte represented were carried to the Supreme Court before they were decided in the schools' favor. The attorney is paid by the hour plus a yearly retainer fee of \$600.

Approximately \$23,440 is needed to pay for the coils at Southport

Primary, Adcock said. Those funds were transferred from Southport Primary's capital outlay and site improvement budgets.

An amendment was also approved in order to accept insurance checks totaling more than \$19,000 for damage caused by Hurricane Diana. Another portion of the budget amendments allowed the schools to accept a \$12,500 check as down payment on land the board has auctioned in Pender County as \$100,000 in bond forfeiture money.

### Other Business

In other business, the board:

•Met in executive session for 20 minutes before promoting Lorene Williams, a teacher of exceptional children at West Brunswick High School, to exceptional children's director. Also promoted was shop foreman Mercer Sullivan of the transportation department to transportation supervisor.

•Accepted the retirements of Lorene Harrell, librarian at Leland Middle School, effective at end of the school year; Viola Thomas, media center, Lincoln Primary, end of the school year; the resignation of Iris Fowler, math instructor South Brunswick Middle, March 15; and hired the following temporarily, Sylvia Harris, special education, Leland Middle; Sara Stohler, extended day, West Brunswick; Shirley Zambrowski, music, Lincoln Primary and Karen Parks, math, South Brunswick Middle.

•Approved class trips for South Brunswick High School's marine occupations club to Table Rock Hatchery, Morganton, on April 24 or May 1, and the North Brunswick High School's math club to tour a nuclear submarine in Charleston, April 19.

•Agreed to sell Brunswick Technical College a 1963 Dodge flatbed truck for \$450.

•Tabled a discussion on cutting a drainage ditch on Leland Middle School property. An adjacent property owner, Leatherman Inc., has requested the ditch be dug to help drain the area.

## Mobile Home

### Lost In Debris Fire

A mobile home in Clariday Woods near Calabash was destroyed Monday when a debris fire on the street behind it burned out of control.

Calabash firefighters responded to the fire with a brush truck and then a tanker.

"It broke through," said fireman Lee Miller, and the department called Sunset Beach volunteers to bring their tanker.

"If they'd come two minutes later it would have been too late," Miller continued. "There would have been nothing standing."

"It was burned pretty bad, but it didn't burn down."

The occupant of the mobile home was thought to be out of town at the time of the fire.

Five brush fires on Saturday burned 145 acres in the county, including a 125-acre fire between Bishop and Mace and fires at Dark Branch and Orton. Two more small fires were reported Sunday.

## Rewards Offered

Rewards of up to \$5,000 are being offered for information relating to two murders, one of which occurred earlier this year in Wilmington.

Gov. Jim Martin said the rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the murders of Stephen Craig Neel of Winston-Salem and Jeffery Scott Levy of Wilmington.

The body of Levy, 28, was found Feb. 2 at Bennigan's Restaurant in Wilmington, where he was employed as manager.

Anyone with information concerning these murders should contact the Winston-Salem Police Department in the case of Neel or the Wilmington Police Department in the Levy case, or the State Bureau of Investigation.

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## County Pitches In To Woo Legislators

Brunswick County joined New Hanover and Columbus counties Tuesday evening in throwing a dinner for all 170 members of the N.C. General Assembly.

All five Brunswick County commissioners planned to attend, said Regina White, clerk to the board, as well as county administrative staff and some municipal officials.

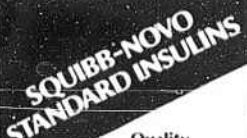
The 5 p.m. oyster roast and shrimperoo at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh cost Brunswick County \$1,300, while New Hanover chipped in \$3,000 and Columbus about \$1,900 for the affair.

Sponsors said the dinner is expected to pay off in a greater awareness of southeastern North Carolina. Specifically it will also give individuals from the three counties a chance to meet and lobby not only their own legislators, but those from other parts of the state who deal with issues of concern to the coastal area.

Among other things, the Brunswick County commissioners plan to lobby for a local bill that would help already developed subdivisions install water distribution lines. The bill would provide for installation cost

"rebates" from other property owners to those who provide the up-front money for such a project.

Those with plans to attend include Bill English, who is helping organize an effort to develop an artificial reef program for the county. A bill was introduced last week to help fund the program.



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