

Schools To Seek \$4.3 Million From County

BY TERRY POPE

The Brunswick County Board of Education plans to ask county commissioners for \$4.3 million in local funds for the 1985-86 fiscal year.

New classroom buildings at Lincoln and Union Primary and South Brunswick Middle schools, three new activity buses and a ten percent across the board salary increase for all employees are a part of the schools' tentative \$4,364,160 budget request from the county. Last year, commissioners appropriated \$348,516 in capital outlay to the school system while refusing to fund new constructions.

School business manager Samuel Adcock presented the tentative budget to the school board Tuesday night. Another meeting on the budget has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. at the Southport administrative building.

New construction makes up \$3,941,500 of the estimated \$4.3 million in capital outlay for the 1985-86 budget request. Including local, state and federal funds, the school budget will total \$22,506,772 next year, said School Superintendent Gene Yarbrough.

The \$3.9 million figure for new construction represents a \$381,500 increase over last year's \$3.5 million estimate due to inflation, Adcock said. A letter from Leslie N. Boney Architects Inc. of Wilmington addressed to Yarbrough on April 15 confirmed the new figures and also stated, "We are ready to proceed immediately."

Additional activity buses are needed to replace the central fleet, Yarbrough said. The schools were awarded three bus allotments last year from the state, but chose to purchase yellow school buses instead.

The average activity bus has more than 146,000 miles, Yarbrough said, while the youngest bus is a 1976 model. Three activity buses would cost the county \$96,000.

Program cuts that will be affected by the new budget are the New Model Me and the In-School Suspension programs. It has been recommended

that the New Model Me program be discontinued, Adcock said, while the In-School Suspension program will be revised.

Dropping the New Model Me program will save the system \$69,737 for three teacher allotments. A revised In-School Suspension program will use seven counselors rather than certified teachers.

Other changes in the curriculum will include adding a guidance counselor to work at both North Brunswick High and Lincoln Primary schools and a 12-month computer coordinator for the county. "In the In-School Suspension and

New Model Me programs, we will not be doing away with their jobs," Yarbrough said. "Those teachers will be used in other positions."

A number of employees will also receive supplement increases such as the assistant to the superintendent, from \$3,500 to \$5,500; probationary teachers, from \$406 to \$450; career A teachers, from \$716 to \$800; and career G teachers, from \$892 to \$1,000.

The French foreign language program implemented in the elementary and middle schools last year will also be revised to move teacher positions into state-funded categories,

saving the schools \$33,157 in local funds.

In anticipated revenues, the board will receive \$190,000 in remaining drug fines and forfeitures for the 1985-86 fiscal year, Adcock said.

There will be no anticipated increase in public utilities since the school system is currently negotiating a contract with the A.E. LeBlanc Inc. energy management company, which will guarantee a savings in energy costs.

In site improvements, the schools have budgeted \$10,000 for water system tap-on fees for North Brunswick, Leland Middle and Lin-

coln Primary schools. Other expenses are \$20,000 for sewer plant updates for all schools, \$5,000 for bleachers and \$20,000 for the dishwashing room at Southport Elementary.

In other action Tuesday night, the board approved a 1984-85 budget amendment to allow for the collection of \$3,002 due to the state for overpayments to employees.

An audit of the 1983-84 school year shows the school system paid out \$6,002 more than authorized by the state. That figure was reduced to \$4,439, but only \$3,002 has been labeled collectable.

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Lincoln Holds Library Week

Students at Lincoln Primary School celebrated National Library Week April 14-20 by studying Hawaii and Israel and by listening to storytellers.

On Monday, Jane Miller, a first-grade teacher, demonstrated to the students her native state of Hawaii with slides and native costumes. Ms. Esther Smith, also a first-grade teacher, told stories to the children on Tuesday.

About 650 balloons were released Wednesday afternoon bearing the inscription, "Pig Out On Books." Each student released a helium-filled balloon with their addresses attached in hopes of receiving a response.

On Thursday, Ms. Joyce Greer of the Wilmington Parks and Recreation Department told stories from children's literature.

Mrs. Ina Smith, grandmother of one Lincoln Primary student, and Assistant Principal Diana Clark Smith, shared slides, dress and items from Israel on Friday. Mrs. Ina Smith was a Baptist missionary for a year in an Arab hospital on the Gaza strip.

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