

# Schools Seek \$4.4 Million For Current Expenses

BY TERRY POPE

Quietly and peacefully, the Brunswick County Board of Education has agreed to ask county commissioners for more than \$4.4 million in current expense funds for the 1985-86 school year.

The \$4,423,440 current expense budget represents a 13 percent increase over last year's allocation from the county. Only one change was made in the budget request that was prepared by school finance officer Samuel Adcock and presented

to the board on April 23.

"They added \$67,123 for increased utility costs," Adcock said. "That's more or less a contingency in the event we don't get this energy management contract together."

The board is negotiating with A.E. LeBlanc Inc. of Raleigh to install energy management devices at each of the county's 11 schools. The contract would guarantee the schools an annual savings in utility costs that would be used to purchase the computerized energy-saving equipment, thus holding the line on utility costs for all future budgets.

School board member Doug Baxley requested that the additional \$67,000 be added to the budget request as a safety factor, in case the contract is not negotiated in time to start the fiscal year. Board members reviewed copies of the budget on their own for a week before unanimously adopting the current expense portion at last Tuesday night's meeting.

The board acted quicker than expected in approving the budget, in

contrast to last year's board that spent several long meetings reviewing the document line-by-line before approving it. No members of the public spoke on the budget at last Tuesday's meeting.

Adcock said he is preparing copies of the budget that will be displayed at each of the school libraries for public inspection. The board will receive public comment on the budget after it is adopted and sent to the county commissioners for approval.

"Up until the local board approves the budget, it is only a working copy," Adcock said. "The input from the schools was covered with input request forms sent to the principals and administrators. The public has their input at open meetings."

The current expense budget reflects an increase of \$205,820 in salaries, benefits and adjustments from the 1984-85 budget of \$3,819,033. Expenses for administration total \$143,671, including \$34,373 in local funds for an assistant superintendent's salary and benefits and a

secretary-bookkeeper.

Another \$99,275 is requested for curriculum and support programs that includes the addition of three instructional coordinators, a guidance counselor, computer coordinator, an advanced studies program and reorganization of the New Model Me and in-school suspension programs.

Incorporating the New Model Me program into the ninth-grade social studies program will save the county \$69,737. School Superintendent Gene Yarbrough said. The program teaches students to deal with their frustrations and aggressive feelings that arise from the difficult decisions they face. It will be incorporated into the government and economics program.

The in-school suspension program will also be reorganized to save the schools \$14,186. Four instructional coordinators will be hired and three teachers aides will be promoted to coordinators to supervise the program. Three teacher allotments from the program will be used

elsewhere.

Other curriculum expenses include the addition of a guidance counselor to share time at Lincoln Primary and North Brunswick High schools. A 12-month computer coordinator will also be hired at a salary of \$27,108.

The schools' elementary and middle school French programs will also be reorganized to save \$33,157 in local funds by transferring state-salaried teachers into the program.

Salaries for two instructors and testing for the schools' academically advanced program that will be tested next year in all grades will cost \$45,911 in local funds.

For maintenance and operation of the garage, \$35,112 is being requested for warehouse employee salaries and \$40,100 for normal maintenance. Of the normal maintenance budget, \$34,600 is needed to clean exhaust canopies at schools, paint the three high schools' cafeterias, build concrete slabs for trash dumpsters and to relocate the Brunswick Opportunities program trailer.

## Nine Weeks Or Six?

### Board Reviews Calendar

Plans to adopt a 1985-86 school calendar that would follow a six weeks grading system rather than a nine weeks system were placed on hold by the Brunswick County Board of Education Monday night.

Board members tabled discussion on the calendar until its Thursday, May 16, meeting in Southport at 7 p.m., when the board will also review the school's curriculum with Assistant Superintendent Ed Lemon.

Col. William Faught, president of the Brunswick County chapter of the N.C. Association of Educators, presented the board with a calendar last month recommended by the teachers that called for students to receive report cards every nine weeks rather than every six weeks. During the 1984-85 school year, students received report cards every six weeks.

Faught said 86 percent of the county's teachers approved of the nine weeks calendar last month before it was presented to the board; however, at Monday's meeting Superintendent Gene Yarbrough presented a calendar that called for a six weeks grading period instead.

The revised calendar had been recommended by the Brunswick County principals, Faught said.

Students would still receive ten holidays and ten vacation days, including two weeks off for Christmas vacation. Under the revised six weeks calendar, school would begin Tuesday, Sept. 3, and end June 12, rather than June 11 as noted in the nine weeks calendar.

Graduation dates under the proposed six weeks calendar would begin June 10 with North Brunswick followed by South Brunswick, June 11 and West Brunswick, June 12.

Students would receive two

holidays for Thanksgiving, a week during Easter and two weeks off for Christmas.

In other business Monday, the board ditched an effort to expand its agenda to include a discussion on digging a ditch at Leland Middle School. Leatherman Inc. has contacted the school about digging a ditch bordering school property to help in drainage.

Board Chairman James Forstner broke a 2-2 tie not to bring the matter up again at Monday's meeting.

"I will never vote to let him put the ditch on school property," board member James Clemmons said. Clemmons said he is concerned that children may get hurt in the four-foot ditch.

"The ditch is going to be dug, it's just a question of where," said board attorney E.J. Prevatte. "It will better serve our property with less problems if we put the ditch where the man has asked."

Prevatte said the ditch would not pose as "an attractive nuisance," thus making the school board liable for accidents.

Board members Clemmons and Doug Baxley joined Forstner in not allowing the discussion on the agenda.

In other business Monday, the board agreed to sell eight surplus used vehicles through the state surplus auction. The used vehicles are useless to the schools and are being discarded, Yarbrough said.

The board also approved a class trip for seventh and eighth grade Vocational Education students to attend the N.C. State Vocational Education convention in Raleigh, May 17-18. Usually about 15 students from the middle schools attend, said Ralph Ward, Vocational Education director.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

### Boaters Had Safe Weekend

Local boaters experienced a safe weekend on the water, reports Jack Ziefel, public affairs officer for Shallotte Flotilla 10-08 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The flotilla voluntarily patrols local waters on weekends.

## Long Pleads No Contest To DWI Case In Durham

Former 13th Judicial District Court Judge Robert Wayne Long of Shallotte pleaded no contest last week to a driving while impaired charge in Durham and received a suspended sentence.

Long, 37, was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended for two years and was also placed on two years unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 fine plus court costs and to perform 24 hours of community service in Brunswick County.

A Durham County District Court judge also ordered that Long not drive until the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles gives him back his license. Long had planned to plead not guilty to the charge, he stated shortly after his arrest, but decided to plead no contest instead.

Long was arrested in Durham on Feb. 23 during a routine license check and charged with driving while impaired with alcohol. A breath analysis later revealed he had a blood alcohol content of .14 percent. In North Carolina, anyone with a blood alcohol content of .10 or more is considered too drunk to drive.

When he was arrested, Long was serving his first term as a judge in the 13th Judicial District, which includes Brunswick, Columbus and Bladen counties. He resigned from office two days following his arrest and returned to his private law practice in Shallotte.

Last month, Gov. Jim Martin appointed Whiteville attorney D. Jack Hooks Jr. to replace Long.

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