

College To Build; Asks For \$8 Million Bond Issue

BY BILL MCGOWAN

Brunswick Technical College students may be sitting in a new classroom building by the fall of 1986. And if the college's administration has its way, issuance of an \$8 million capital construction bond will fund efforts to complete a consolidated campus during the next few years.

Original plans called for construction of a two-story building at a cost of \$1.2 million. The building would have occupied some 14,000 square feet on each floor.

"It doesn't look like we're going to get enough money to build (the two-story building)," Carter told his board. "An alternative would be to work with state property control and to build a 12,000-square foot single-story building."

Carter explained that the one-story structure will actually cover the same amount of space as the bottom floor of the two-story structure, because a breezeway which split the two halves of the two-story classroom building will be narrowed or eliminated.

He believes the single-story building will be more practical in the long run, allowing for easier control of heating and cooling due to the reduced size or elimination of the exterior breezeway. Such an arrangement would also make better use of space, he said.

Board members seemed anxious to give Carter authorization to proceed with his recommendation. "Well, we've been standing still for so long," Chairman W.A. Stanley said. "I'm anxious to see something go on in the site. I'm in favor."

Following unanimous board approval of a motion by Vice-Chairman Lewis Stanley and a second by Eugene Hewett, Carter told the board he is shooting for the fall of 1986 as a completion date.

"We'd like to move as rapidly as possible and hopefully complete the building one year from this fall," Carter said. "That is possible because there is nothing really complicated about it."

Once the schematics are redesigned, he said, the drawings would be resubmitted to the board for final approval.

Bond Would Keep Ball Rolling

A resolution calling for a referendum on the sale of an \$8 million bond in support of capital construction for the

permanent Brunswick Technical College campus is on its way to the county board of commissioners.

Trustees unanimously approved the measure and indicated their eagerness for a referendum to be called for by the county.

Trustee Herman Love, also a county commissioner, told fellow board members he knows of no other requests for bond issues presently facing county commissioners.

He added that the college's bond sale request would not necessitate a rise in the county's current tax structure.

An impatient board of trustees Wednesday night approved a recommendation by President Joseph Carter to utilize available funds to build a one-story classroom building. The board, achieving a quorum of its members for the first time since its April meeting, expressed the urgent need for the classroom building and their desire to see planning turn into reality.

The action to proceed sidesteps the wait for further donations needed to build a proposed two-story structure for which a schematic design has already been drawn.

In addition, the board approved a draft resolution calling for a referendum to be held in support of capital construction for the permanent campus on U.S. 17 near Supply. The resolution, which now goes to county council, calls for a bond of \$8 million.

Approval also was given to Carter's recommendation to purchase remaining acreage adjacent to the permanent campus before the college's option on the property expires this fall.

Building Plans Proceed

Classroom space is "needed so desperately," Carter told board members Wednesday, that it would be better to proceed with a smaller, less expensive version of the classroom building.

He said the college could hold onto the \$22,000 to \$23,000 in the Brunswick Technical College Foundation, salvage what it can from the two-story classroom schematic drawing, and have the present architect redesign the schematic into a one-story structure.

The architectural firm of Jefferies and Paris of Wilmington has estimated that an 11,500-square foot, single-

story classroom building can be constructed for \$746,000, Carter told the trustees. After adding a 5 percent contingency required by the state, architectural fees, moveable equipment to put inside the building, and soil tests and surveying, the total cost of the project rises to approximately \$875,000. That figure includes parking lots.

The money to pay for the building, Carter said, has all been secured from the state, including \$375,000 carried over from last year's legislative appropriation, and an additional \$500,000 secured from the legislature this year.

State Rep. David Redwine, also a member of the college board of trustees, was able to obtain the special \$500,000 appropriation from the General Assembly in June, as part of the main budget bill approved by the state legislature.

Both Redwine and the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners had recommended a bond referendum as a long-term solution for funding the college's capital construction needs.

Later in the meeting, however, when a timetable for a referendum was discussed, Love added, "The quicker we can do this, the better off we're going to be. We need a referendum as quick as we can get it. We need it before tax notices go out in November."

Trustee Jim Rabon added his support to the resolution, saying, "If we don't go with something now, I don't feel as a board member I'm showing too much enthusiasm. As one, I'm for it and will do what I can to support it. I believe we might carry it."

Making a motion to approve the resolution, Cora Green noted the "great need for (a bond sale)." She said the speed at which the county is growing is but one of the many reasons for accelerating the college's building program. "I believe the (county) commissioners will support it," she said.

Following a second by Rabon, the motion carried unanimously.

Carter reminded trustees that some \$1.5 million to \$2 million of the money would be used to construct an auditorium, which could be used by organizations throughout the county. He added that if numerous requests for use of college facilities is any indication, the

auditorium factor may be a selling point for the entire bond.

The draft resolution dated June 19 and presented to trustees Wednesday night lists eight reasons why the college has requested the bond sale. They include the following:

- "Brunswick County is one of the fastest growing counties in North Carolina.

- "Brunswick Technical College is one of the fastest growing community colleges in North Carolina.

- "The state of North Carolina has appropriated one million dollars for capital construction and the county has matched this amount in mostly discarded and substandard buildings which are non-functional and expensive to maintain, heat, and cool.

- "Only three of the 15 programs are housed in permanent facilities.

- "The campus of Brunswick Technical College is composed of three geographical locations from 3-18 miles apart and serviced by two utility companies.

- "The cost of managing and maintaining the substandard facilities will continue to increase which at the present time exceeds \$50,000 annually.

- "The economic development in Brunswick County can be enhanced by the training and education of the labor force for new and expanding business and industry.

- "The college has grown and exceeds all previous predictions."

Final Property Purchase

In line with plans to speed up efforts to achieve a consolidated campus, Carter recommended purchase of remaining land under option.

The college's option on the acreage, which is located adjacent to the permanent campus on U.S. 17, expires this fall.

All of the funds to purchase the property under option were approved by county commissioners in their fiscal 1985-86 budget, Carter said.

The purchase, he added, will increase Brunswick Tech's holdings at its permanent campus by 132 acres.

Payment for the land will amount to some \$198,000 at \$1,500 per acre.

Real Estate Courses Added To Tech College Curriculum

BY BILL MCGOWAN

With one of the hottest real estate markets in the state at its doorstep, Brunswick Technical College's board of trustees has realized the need for a new curriculum.

By unanimous vote at its July meeting last Wednesday night, trustees approved a proposed real estate curriculum for the college which ties in with real estate and business education courses presently being offered.

Trustees also approved a residency policy for employees, discussed and amended the dual enrollment policy, accepted information dealing with several resignations, and approved construction of a small college billboard next to U.S. 17.

New Curriculum

Trustees welcomed information about the new real estate curriculum.

The two-year associate degree program will focus on real estate and property management courses.

The program will be offered beginning this fall.

According to college President Joseph Carter, the proposed curriculum was submitted to Raleigh last month without board approval. Because the board did not achieve a quorum at its June meeting, Carter went ahead and submitted the proposal to Raleigh so it could be approved by the state office in time for classes to begin this fall, he said.

Carter told trustees the curriculum would not require a large expenditure because no major equipment or materials must be purchased for its inception.

He added that the real estate and property management courses will be offered both day and night during the week, in addition to Saturdays.

Residency Requirement Passes

Following the lead of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, college trustees Wednesday

night approved a controversial residency requirement for employees.

The county policy on hiring approved June 3 states "any person who accepts employment with the County of Brunswick shall establish and maintain residency within the County of Brunswick within six months of the date of employment."

The resolution has been provided to all governmental and proprietary units funded by the county. Compliance with the policy by those agencies, the resolution states, "shall be taken into consideration by the board in all matters of funding."

Reasons for the requirement, as listed in the county's resolution, include "the strong belief" of commissioners "that those individuals who serve the people of Brunswick County in all local, governmental and proprietary functions should be residents of the governmental unit they serve and from which they receive their livelihood."

Feelings of the Brunswick Tech board were mixed, although the motion was approved unanimously.

"I don't like it," one board member said, "but I'll make the motion. They don't give us much money, but we don't want them to cut us off."

According to Carter, the county provides 10 percent of the college's annual operating budget, compared to 90 percent provided by the state.

Chairman W.A. Stanley said he agrees with the policy.

"It has been our policy to stick to what we've got right here (county residents as employees)," Stanley said. "And we've adhered to that as close as we could. Only a few exceptions have been made."

"I'm in agreement," Stanley continued. "I think Brunswick County has the people qualified to handle these jobs."

He added he feels that the college's payroll checks, as well as those of other county supported agencies and

institutions, should be spent in Brunswick County.

Carter told the board the purpose of the policy is "not just to hire local people." Whoever is hired, though, must move, he said.

Employees who come into the Brunswick County at 8 a.m. to work and who leave again at 5 p.m. to go back to another county where they live "never feel the pulse or the sense of what's happening in this county," Carter said.

He told trustees also that some 90 percent of the resignations he receives "have come from people from outside the county who have tried to work here."

Dual Enrollment Clarified
President Carter told trustees the college's dual enrollment policy needed to be altered slightly to accurately reflect state laws.

In the past, he said, high school principals have interpreted the dual enrollment policy to mean that high school students are not eligible to attend the college.

Legally, however, anyone age 18 or older is eligible to enroll at Brunswick Tech. High School

students younger than 18 must have their enrollment in the college initiated by the public school he or she attends.

Board members adopted unanimously an amendment to clarify its present dual enrollment policy.

Resignations Offered

During a report on personnel, Carter advised his board that trustees Raymond Ludlum and Gail Porterfield have submitted letters of resignation. The terms of trustee John Ivey, a county commission appointee, and Leo Johnson Jr., a governor's appointee, have expired.

According to Carter, Porterfield resigned because of a busy schedule attached to a restaurant she owns on Long Beach. Ludlum resigned, he said, also because of a busy schedule, as well as for personal reasons.

Ivey's replacement, Clarkie Munn of Leland, was scheduled to attend her first meeting Wednesday night, but had a previous obligation, Carter said. Kelly Holden of Route 3, Shallotte, will fill Johnson's seat.

No replacements have been appointed to fill the seats of Porterfield and Ludlum on the 12-member board.

Also concerning personnel, Carter advised the board that a new librarian, Sharon Smith, recently began her duties at the college. She replaces Mary Beth Blanton, a Wilmington resident, who resigned from the position recently.

Other Business

In other business, trustees did the following:

- Approved Carter's recommendation to construct a billboard on U.S. 17 which would carry the college name across the top, as well as include room for interchangeable messages dealing with college activities.

- Approved a continuing budget resolution in lieu of legislative ap-

proval of a state budget for the coming year. The resolution will allow the president to pay salaries and other expenses for the interval between July 1 and adoption of the 1985-86 budget resolution.

• Heard from Carter that auditors recently found no exceptions during the annual Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) audit conducted recently.

• Approved Carter's efforts to secure a loan of defense equipment from the United States government. According to the president, the government makes equipment loans to agencies such as community colleges on the condition that the equipment be returned if needed by the United States. Items requested include new welders and equipment for the heating and air conditioning curriculum.

Holden Named Trustee

Kelly Holden, of Route 3, Shallotte, has been appointed by Gov. Jim Martin to the Brunswick Technical College Board of Trustees.

Holden, 35, was the Republican candidate for Brunswick County Register of Deeds in November 1984, obtaining 7,446 votes in his effort to unseat Democratic incumbent Robert Robinson, who garnered 8,703 votes.

He is a self-employed tax accountant and vegetable farmer, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and a graduate of Southeastern Community College. He serves on the Brunswick County Republican Party's transportation committee by appointment of GOP Chairman John Dozier.

On the BTC board, Holden succeeds Leo Johnson Jr. of Ocean Isle Beach, whose term ended June 30.



KELLY HOLDEN

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