

# School Board Adopts Plan; Hires Transportation Chief

BY SUSAN USHER

A plan adopted by the Brunswick County Board of Education Thursday outlines four-year goals for the school system in all areas from student learning to bus transportation.

Board members also hired William Gurganious of New Hanover County as the system's new transportation director.

In developing the four-year guidelines, school system administrators will also devise "benchmarks" for determining how well the programs work. Superintendent Gene Yarbrough told school board members in a conference in his office before a special meeting of the board began Thursday evening in Southport.

"We need benchmarks as we progress. If we see we aren't successful, we can always pull back," Yarbrough said as he answered board members' questions about the four-year plan in the office meeting.

The full board met with the superintendent in his office for 10 to 15 minutes to discuss their agenda before the board meeting began at about 7:10 p.m. "I'm just going over with them what we're going to do in the meeting," he said of the office conference.

Under the N.C. Open Meetings

Law, any gathering of a majority of a public body other than a purely social event is a "meeting".

Under the four-year plan approved by the board, county schools will move to a mastery learning program, in which students will show mastery of one skill before moving on to another, following curriculum guides being developed for each course and grade.

The checkpoints would indicate to teachers how well students are doing well before the end of the school year. If they can't learn one way, Assistant Superintendent Ed Lemon explained to Chairman Jim Forstner, then they would be switched to another mode of instruction.

Within the next two years the school system plans to begin offering advanced studies for 10 to 15 percent of the students in grades K-12, as well as a summer enrichment program. A summer remedial program is proposed for students in grades 1-8 who rank below the 25th percentile on the state annual testing program.

Efforts will also be made to integrate coursework, rather than teaching each subject in isolation and to increase computer-assisted learning at all grade levels.

Sixth-graders would be moved into

self-contained classrooms this fall and both Basal and Success and Reading and Writing programs would be included in the sixth-grade reading program.

Other goals include improving student test-taking skills and raising annual test scores, improving supervisory services for instructors, increasing vocational services, expanding athletic programs and support services, providing effective learning strategies in the Chapter 1 program, improving federal job training opportunities and improving graphic arts capabilities.

In meeting these goals, the school system plans to hire more general and vocational counselors, decrease the numbers of students in each class, implement the state's career ladder plan and performance evaluation system for educators and, with the help of a computerized fixed inventory file, put all vehicles and equipment on a scheduled replacement plan.

In transportation, the system will move toward a system of adult bus drivers and preventive bus maintenance and will take steps to shorten the time students spend riding buses.

A centralized purchasing system begins this year under the plan, with

former plant operations director Randall (Randy) Worth of Shallotte taking over as central purchasing agent.

Superintendent Yarbrough said the central purchasing system should reduce delays in receiving material as well as providing potential cost savings of 20 to 25 percent. The office would buy in bulk, using state contract where available, beginning with instructional materials that will be warehoused in the maintenance facilities. Schools and/or individual personnel would submit purchase orders that could be filled possibly within 24 hours.

For teachers, the plan also calls for increased in-service training, improved access to outside resources, more supervisory help such as demonstration teaching and classroom assistance, and greater use of co- or team-teaching.

In sports and athletics, P.E. teachers will be certified in CPR this year and will begin including CPR in their classroom training. The school system wants to initiate a middle school football program in cooperation with the high schools this fall. Spring sports of baseball, track and softball would be added the following year and volleyball and tennis the

third year, with coaching staff increases as the program grows.

At the high schools, sports needs include bleachers, additional tennis courts and paving or repaving of tracks.

In addition to Worth's change of responsibilities, the board also hired a transportation director Thursday night.

## New Director

William Gurganious, 32, of Castle Hayne, has been in school transportation for 13 years, he said, working his way from apprentice to supervisor. Most recently he was a mechanic/technician for the New Hanover County Public Schools.

He plans to move to Brunswick County, where his responsibilities will include working with bus drivers, operating the county garage and moving to a system of preventive maintenance on all vehicles, and working with Bill Turner, assistant to the superintendent, and with the superintendent and principals on matters such as bus routing.

He has worked with both adult and teenage drivers in the past and said he looks forward to working with every driver in the system and the garage staff.

"I'm tickled with the four-year program," the Cape Fear Technical Institute graduate said. "It gives me something to work toward. We're going to work as a team."

In other personnel action, the board:

- Hired Mary Blanton as media coordinator at Leland Middle School.
- Approved transfers for Betty Smith of Shallotte from Leland Mid-



WILLIAM GURGANIOUS

dle to Shallotte Middle School and for P.E. teacher Shelley Payton from Shallotte Middle to Bolivia Elementary.

- Accepted the resignations of Billie Hollar, Bolivia Elementary media coordinator; and Tonja Spencer, North Brunswick math teacher; and two cafeteria workers, Dean Ester, North Brunswick and Francis Gore, West Brunswick.

- Acknowledged official separation from the system of William Bradley, vocational education instructor at Shallotte Middle. He could not be offered a contract for the 1985-86 term because he did not renew his teaching certificate within two years, said Stephanna Tewey, assistant superintendent in charge of personnel.

- Approved Linda Edwards, Pamela Bruton and Brenda Suggs as substitute teachers.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Ocean Isle Mayor Named To State Authority

LaDane Bullington, mayor of Ocean Isle Beach, has been appointed to a two-year term on the N.C. State Capitol Building Authority.



Her appointment was recommended by Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green and approved by the N.C. Senate last week.

The nine-member authority chooses the architects and engineers and lets bids for all construction, renovation and repair of state property outside the university and transportation systems. Five members are appointed by the governor and two by each house of the legislature at the recommendation of the body's leadership.

#### DA's Elect Easley

Michael Easley, district attorney for the 13th Judicial District, has been elected vice president and legislative chairman of the N.C. District Attorneys' Association on July 15 at a meeting of the association in Raleigh.



During his one-year term, one of Easley's responsibilities will be lobbying the legislature on behalf of district attorneys statewide.

#### Elks Ruler Noted

Leon Noorigian of Calabash Lodge No. 2679 was recently recognized as a newly elected exalted ruler at the 121st convention of the Grand Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of

Elks, held in Seattle July 14-18. Noorigian, elected in March, took office as Calabash lodge leader in April. He is one of more than 2,250 exalted rulers nationwide.

#### Hewett Accepted

Karen Hewett, daughter of Danny and Mary Etta Hewett of Route 3, Supply, has been accepted into the 1985 freshman class at Montreat-Anderson Junior College, Montreat.

She is a 1985 graduate of West Brunswick High School.

#### Kelly Promoted

Betty J. Kelly, daughter of Mary J. and James F. Kelly of Route 3, Leland, has been promoted in the U.S. Army to the rank of specialist four.

A 1982 graduate of North Brunswick High School, she is a data

telecommunications operator in West Germany, with the 5th Signal Command.

#### Wins Lap Robe

Mrs. Liza Nance of Supply was the winner of a lap robe given away in a July fundraising project conducted by the Supply Extension Homemakers Club.

#### Entered Pageant

Ashley Michele Marshall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Marshall of Shallotte, was third runner-up in the Junior Miss division of the N.C. Miss Charm Pageant held July 4-6 at Meredith College in Raleigh.

She represented Brunswick County in the pageant, in which she also won first place in division evening gown competition.

A rising fifth grader at Shallotte Middle School, she is 10 years old.

#### Aims For Title

Tri-County Cinderella Miss Robin Ann Campbell, 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Campbell of Ocean Isle Beach, competes for the title of International Miss Cinderella in Miami, Fla., Aug. 3-10. In the state pageant held July 10-14 in Charlotte, she won the title N.C. Cinderella Miss Photogenic and was one of four contestants in the 10- to 12-year old division who won payment of their entry fees in the Miami event.



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