



School Board Considers Possible Transfer Of Black Administrators

BY SUSAN USHER

After meeting 2 1/2 hours behind closed doors Thursday night, Brunswick County Board of Education members couldn't reach agreement on a proposed mid-term shift of black administrators within the western attendance district.

James Clemmons, former Lincoln Elementary School principal and the only black member of the school board, walked out of the meeting as it returned to open session, saying, "You can go on in. They're going to call the meeting back to order and adjourn it. They're not going to vote."

He gathered with a group of about

12 to 15 black community leaders in a rear office as the board did just what he said, voting only to adjourn.

While the plan would increase the total number of black administrators by one, Clemmons later told *The Beacon* he opposes it because he thinks any mid-year change-over would hurt student morale.

"There would be a net gain of one, but I'm more concerned about the overall school situation," he said.

"It makes no difference whether you put a black administrator or a white administrator in the school, it's going to have a negative impact on the school," he continued. "The children would divide up."

Clemmons said he prefers there be no changes of administration, and particularly not at mid-term.

"The timing was wrong. They ought to do it at the end of the year or the beginning of the year if they're going to do it. If (any problem at the school) didn't just happen."

And if there is a problem at the school, he said, the system should help correct it.

"If a principal has a problem they should try to help him solve it. Part of the problem's with the system. We need to develop a positive attitude."

A copy of a personnel list provided to several news reporters by accident

showed the proposed realignment.

The proposal calls for reassignment of longtime Union Primary School Principal Freeman Gause to a new central office position as coordinator of developmental programs.

It identifies Maliston Stanley, assistant principal at West Brunswick High School, as Gause's replacement on an interim basis, and Harold Johnson, a West instructor, as a possible replacement for Stanley, also on an interim basis.

Johnson was formerly assistant principal at Shalotte Middle School.

Superintendent Gene Yarbrough had no comment Thursday night on the proposal, saying board members had not seen the personnel sheet listing the transfers. He asked the information not be used, since the board had taken no action on it.

The board's executive session was called to discuss personnel and client/attorney matters. Clemmons said it was the first time the proposed realignment had come before the board.

"It was as new to me as it was to you," he said.

He said no decision was reached, delaying any board action until after Jan. 1. The board isn't scheduled to meet again until January, at Lincoln Primary School.

West-End Developers Seek 30-Day Extension On Reply

As predicted last week, the developers of a subdivision on the west end of Holden Beach has requested a 30-day extension of time in which to answer a suit filed by a group seeking to reopen the west end to public traffic.

Holden Beach Enterprises barricaded a dirt road leading to the west end in August, saying it was a private road leading to a private subdivision.

It charged nearly 30 persons with trespass following a motorcade past the barricade.

Those charges have since been dropped following the filing of the group's suit, filed by attorney James D. Maxwell of Durham. It seeks to establish a public right of access on the principle of adverse possession, the same concept Maxwell is using as the basis of a suit filed by the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association

Computer Troubles Delay Tax Revaluation Notices

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County taxpayers anxious—or fearing—to know how much their property has increased in value since 1978 must wait a little longer.

First expected in October, then November, the dreaded revaluation notices won't go out until after Christmas, Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson told county commissioners Monday night. He blamed communication problems between the county and revaluation computers for the delays.

He said the notices should be ready "shortly before Christmas," but that the mailing would be delayed until immediately after the holiday. That means they will go out just ahead of the annual tax listing abstracts—and just before local candidates begin filing for the two available commissioners' seats—those of District 2 Commissioner Herman Love and District 5 Commissioner Grace Beasley.

Chris Chappell, chairman of the board of commissioners, expressed concern over the delay and its cause. He said he could "see where we could get in a crunch."

Postponement means the revaluation notices will go out just ahead of or at about the same time as the 1986 tax abstracts—the forms used by property owners to list all property on which taxes must be made and showing the scope and value of known real property.

That data is based on the revaluation

field work and is subject to correction as property owners note errors in listing and the like. County tax officials had hoped to have plenty of time to catch those errors with the revaluation notices in October/November and correct them before mailing abstracts in early January.

Any serious delay in the listing period or preparation of abstracts could delay the mailing of actual tax notices in the fall of 1986, said Williamson.

Weisner pointed out that filling out, signing and returning the abstract doesn't mean a property owner agrees with the values listed. That value can be appealed through a separate process by calling W.P. Ferris Inc., the company conducting the revaluation.

Taxable and exempt real property values under the revaluation are \$2,668,832,000, said Brent Weisner, director of the revaluation project. That's 167 percent more than last year. Adding \$1 billion in personal property, Brunswick County property is worth \$3.6 billion, a \$1.5 billion jump from 1985 figures. The values become effective January 1.

Weisner said that some property owners will definitely be shocked when their revaluation notices arrive. Rural areas such as farmland are expected to increase by 30 percent to 50 percent. Oceanfront and riverfront properties may increase by 300 percent to 500 percent, while other land not adjoining water may show a 100 percent increase in land value.

The revaluation, required by the state at least every eight years, is costing Brunswick County nearly \$400,000. More than 69,000 parcels have been evaluated.

Pfizer Refunded

Meanwhile, one major taxpayer received a \$20,000 cut in its tax bill for the years 1980 through 1985, but only on personal business property that it had underreported earlier.

In a cross-check with the N.C. Department of Revenue, Williamson told commissioners, the county learned that Pfizer Chemicals Inc. of Southport had underreported its personal property by more than \$3 million. But in calculating taxes on the property, the county forgot to subtract depreciation of nearly \$20,000, hence the release.

Suspect Charged In Drugstore Break-Ins

A man arrested in November on a charge of breaking and entering the Oasis Mart at Calabash has also been charged in three drugstore break-ins, according to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Eddie Lee Rich, 31, of the Ocean Isle Beach area, remained in the Brunswick County Jail under \$19,000 bond Tuesday.

He is charged with breaking and entering Seashore Drugs at Calabash twice, Ocean Isle Beach Pharmacy once and the Calabash Oasis food store once, and with possession of stolen goods, specifically Schedule II or controlled-distribution drugs.

Rich was arrested on Nov. 18 in a cooperative effort with the Sunset Beach Police Department, Det. Lindsey Walton said.

Following a tip called in to the

sheriff's department, Sunset Beach Police Officer Sam Grantham was dispatched to the Oasis since he was the nearest officer. According to his report, he caught Rich exiting the front door of the store with burglary tools and stolen merchandise in his possession.

After extensive questioning, Walton said, Rich was charged with the other breaking and enterings.

Also charged in one of the Seashore Drug break-ins was a female accessory, Susan D. Greery, 25, also of the Ocean Isle Beach area. She has been released under reduced bond.

The Ocean Isle Beach Police Department also worked with the sheriff's department in the search of the Rich residence and recovery of a portion of the stolen drugs.

Leland Teacher Is 'Best Of Lot'

Betty Chaisson, a third-grade teacher at Lincoln Primary School and vice-president of the county chapter of the N.C. Association of Educators, was recognized last week as Teacher of the Year by the Brunswick County Board of Education.

"The competition was horrendous," board chairman James Forstner said in praise of the program, reinstated this year after a gap of several years. "She was the best of the lot."

Mrs. Chaisson will advance to District 2 competition, submitting a scrapbook supporting her nomination no later than Jan. 6. As an incentive for teachers to enter the competition, the county teacher of the year also will receive a total of \$1,000 in supplements and reimbursement for materials, the board decided Thursday.

A teacher for 28 years, the Leland resident said she loves her work.

The "Teacher of the Year" at each of the nine participating schools received \$25. Finalists by school were Susan Tubb, Shalotte Middle; Virginia Winfree, West Brunswick High; David Everett, Union; Debbie Hewett, Bolivia Elementary; Beth Sell, Southport Primary; Gloria Yount, South Brunswick High; Gloria Blanks, Leland Middle; Vickie Harris, South Brunswick Middle; Waccamaw Elementary and North Brunswick High did not participate.



Queens Begin Reign

Little Miss Brunswick County Nancy Smith and Miss Brunswick County Susan Holth began their 1986 reigns Saturday night in a pageant at Shalotte Middle School. For Ms. Holth, it was the second time around. The story and more photos are inside this issue.

Deadlines For Next Two Weeks Will Be Earlier

Deadlines for the next two issues of *The Brunswick Beacon* have been moved up because of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Although both newspapers will carry the usual Thursday dateline and should reach mail subscribers on regular schedule, they will actually be printed a day earlier than usual so *Beacon* employees may observe the holidays.

For the Dec. 26 issue, the deadline for real estate advertising is 5 p.m. this Friday, Dec. 20. For all other advertising and news items the deadline is Monday, Dec. 23.

For the Jan. 2 issue, the deadline for real estate advertising is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27. For all other advertising and news items the deadline is Monday, Dec. 30.

The *Beacon* office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 25 and 26, and Wednesday, Jan. 1.