

Advisory Councils Topic At School Board Retreat

BY ETTA SMITH

Brunswick County Board of Education members discussed developing a well-defined role for local school advisory councils during a day-long retreat last Saturday.

The workshop, held at Sea Trail Golf Links at Sunset Beach, featured guest speaker Mary Willis of the School Council Assistance Program at the University of South Carolina.

Board members took no action at the informal session.

Willis told board members that the program is coordinated by the Department of Education at the university and provides school councils with technical assistance, training and other resources.

According to Superintendent of Schools Gene Yarbrough, "The state requires the school advisory councils. They're funded by the local education agency and each school has a council with six elected members."

He added that the parent-teacher organization president at each school serves as the seventh member of each council. The council in turn serves in an advisory capacity to the school board and staff.

Yarbrough said that the board wants the councils to serve in other functions besides those that are narrow and negative.

The duties of the county's councils presently consist primarily of reporting complaints and grievances, including complaints about school personnel, said Yarbrough.

He said the current role of the county's councils is outmoded, and the board would like to see the councils serve in a more positive capacity.

By state law, the councils are to meet monthly with their principal. It is each council's responsibility to not only report complaints as noted above, but also to inspect school property and report damages or misuse; to improve communication and understanding of public education; assist in program planning; recommend policy and policy amendments; serve as the community education advisory council for schools designated as community school sites; assist in needs assessments and encourage volunteer participation in all programs, plus other duties prescribed by the board of education.



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS look over their notes during a planning retreat at Sea Trail Golf Links Saturday morning. From left are Superintendent Gene Yarbrough, board members Marvin McKelhan, Doug Baxley,

James Clemmons and Dorothy Worth and Chairman James Forstner. The retreat included a workshop and various sessions on state laws governing school advisory councils.



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Hospice Has Busy January

Lower Cape Fear Hospice, Inc. begins 1987 with three events—volunteer training, an annual meeting and a benefit stage performance.

A series of volunteer training workshops begins Jan. 19 from 8:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. with a presentation by Hospice Volunteer Director Nora Brown on Hospice concepts and continues for eight consecutive Mondays through March 9. Sessions during January and February will be held at the New Hanover County Library, 201 Chestnut Street, Wilmington.

Other topics will include frustrations patients and families face at a time of terminal illness; accepting personal feelings on death; communications; physical care; bereavement follow up; funeral planning; and the working volunteers.

Those interested in attending should call the Hospice office, at 392-4313, to reserve a place.

Hospice's annual meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington University Union. An optional \$7.75 dinner will be served at 7 p.m., with reservations to be made at the

Hospice office by Jan. 16. The business meeting begins at 8 p.m. Rev. Richard Graf will be the keynote speaker. Officer elections and a brief update on Hospice's past year are also planned.

A benefit performance of the Pulitzer Prize winning play *The Shadow Box* will be held on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. in Thalian Hall.

The play deals with the emotions involved in knowing that one is actively dying, and the audience becomes engaged in the "real life" experience of confronting and accepting the death experience.

A Hospice news release describes the play as one that "will make you laugh and cry, as well as give you something to think and talk about."

A 7 p.m. cocktail reception in the courtyard of the Cotton Exchange precedes the program. Tickets are \$15 and are tax deductible as permitted by law.

Hospice is a non-profit organization whose volunteers serve the terminally ill and their families in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties.



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