

AUDITORIUM NOT FINISHED

BCC Board Considers Switch To Hard Ball With Contractor

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College Trustees are changing tactics in their effort to see the Odell Williamson Auditorium to completion.

Chastising themselves last Wednesday night for using a "nice guy" approach, trustees gave after-the-fact support to Chairman Dave Kelly contacting the board attorney to investigate BCC's options.

"I am very provoked that we are not finished," said Kelly. "We should apply what pressure we can to make sure it is completed and the way we want it."

Said Trustee Jamie Milliken, "I don't think there is anybody here who won't admit we're partially to blame for this. We played nice guy and it's time for us to play bad guy. Playing good guy didn't get us anywhere."

Come September it will be four years since ground was broken for the 1,500-seat community auditorium, which is being built with the remaining half of \$8 million in general obligations bonds for campus construction approved by voters in November 1985. When trustees awarded bids in August 1991 for the 32,773-square-foot facility, they expected it to be ready for use in late 1992.

General contractor Hatcher Construction Co. missed the original completion deadline and a 40-day negotiated extension that reflected delays caused by weather, change orders initiated by the college and architect and other factors outside the company's responsibility.

"There are probably a thousand reasons it's behind schedule if you talk to the contractor," said Kelly. "If you talk to members of this board, you will find not one."

When the auditorium is ready, said Kelly, "I think it

will be a really nice facility. I don't want us to lose sight of that."

Since mid-summer, at the board's request, said architect Ken Phelps of Boney Architects, the contractor has been asked repeatedly to complete the work as expeditiously as possible.

"But I have no authority to direct he put more people on the job or to tell him what work to do," said Phelps. "The architect can assess whether the bills reflect the work done."

Hatcher proposed a new schedule last Wednesday that neither other contractors on the job nor the architect had had a chance to review or agree on prior to the board meeting, said Phelps.

In a related matter, trustees approved change orders to cover an omission in auditorium plans that wasn't noticed until after the concrete flooring was poured. In three rooms, contrary to state plumbing code, trap primers were omitted for floor drains. State and county inspectors have agreed for BCC to add taps so that the drains can be kept wet and sewer gases kept from venting into the building.

Hired On Trial Basis

Last week trustees also approved hiring Deluxe Janitorial Services on a trial basis from Feb. 1 through

June 30 to clean a portion the ALS and Classroom buildings at night while fewer people are about, as recommended by Ben DeBlois, vice president of administrative services.

"One problem has been that the crews are here when the faculty and staff are and that makes it difficult to clean properly. We get marginal cleaning sometimes," he said.

"I think the change will be cost effective and will result in a better product. If it doesn't work, we can go back."

One house-keeping crew member will be transferred to fill a vacancy on the grounds staff, while others, including those employed through a contract with the Brunswick Interagency Program, will continue cleaning the remaining buildings on campus.

Annex Work Continues

DeBlois will begin seeking contracts to complete renovation of remaining classrooms, halls and bathrooms at the Southport Annex at the direction last week of the BCC Board of Trustees.

Contributions of \$10,000 from Brunswick County and \$5,000 each from Carolina Power & Light Co., United Carolina Bank, Security Savings & Loan and

NationsBank will cover much of the cost.

"We need another \$15,000 to \$18,000," said Building & Grounds Chairman Al Wooten. "We hope it (the cost) will come in at \$30,000 to \$35,000, but we have no way of knowing that it will."

The college will use funds of its own to make up any difference.

BCC employees renovated one classroom as a model, to give potential contributors an idea of the time and cost involved in upgrading a single classroom.

Workshop Provides Help In Finding Money For College-Bound Individuals

A financial aid workshop will be offered at Brunswick Community College today (Thursday) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for college-bound high school students and their parents.

The workshop will cover information on scholarships, grants and loans applicable to any college a student might select.

Co-sponsored by guidance counselors at Brunswick County's three high schools, the program will also include how to complete the standard Financial Aid Form.

The free workshop will be held in the Student Center of the ALS Building on BCC's main campus north of Supply on U.S. 17 Business.

For more information contact the college's financial aid officer at 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

Volunteers Needed To Read To Children

Interested in sharing your love of reading with children?

The Brunswick County Literacy Council is looking for volunteers to go into Bolivia Elementary to read to the children there once a week.

"No special training is required, just the desire to spend time with children and spread the message that reading is fun," a Literacy Council news release.

For more information about this or other volunteer opportunities, call the Literacy Council at 754-READ.

'Kidnastics' Program Has Space

Space is available in the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department's "Kidnastics" program, held Mondays at Lincoln Primary and Wednesdays at Bolivia Elementary.

Programs at both sites are at 2:45 p.m.

There is a \$22 per month participation fee and \$6 recreational insurance fee good for one year.

To register, call the department at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

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