

Schools' Improvement Plan Targets 10 Goals, Sets Success Strategy

(Continued From Page 1-A) rates of completion rather than high school diplomas, because they had not met all graduation requirements. The goal is to reduce the percent students receiving a certificate to less than 3.5 percent in 1993-94 and to less than 3 percent by 1995-96.

■Attendance: Employing three area attendance counselors to work with parents and represent school administrators in court for truant cases; fund an alternative bus schedule for students who stay after school for tutoring; designate a central office coordinator for attendance. Attendance currently averages 93.71 percent, just shy of the state's minimum standard. The goal is to reach 93.75 percent by 1993-94 and 94.1 percent by 1995-96.

each plan or send it back to the school for revision and resubmission by April 7. The county's plan will be submitted around April 8 to the State Board of Education for approval.

In addition to not meeting standards in five areas last year, no report card gains were indicated last year in sixth grade science and social studies, chemistry and Algebra II.

For the past several years on the report card Brunswick County students have achieved below standard and below part in science, reading and language, social studies and math on the system's state report card.

Brunswick County Schools was one of 14 systems statewide to rate both below average and below par overall. Ratings are based on systems showing steady improvement in meeting or exceeding state minimum standards.

Starting in 1995 improvement reports will be issued for individual schools as well as school systems.

Talley and other committee members responded to board member Bill Fairley's concern board that the plan might be settling for mediocre performance by stressing that plan goals could be set higher as the plan is reviewed each year.

Fairley said he wants the school board to develop its budget to fully fund the improvement plan, share both with county commissioners, and "remind them their campaign pledge was to help us."

■Evaluation: Require periodic progress reports from coordinators, lead teachers, school teams and schools; develop pre- and post-tests for grades 3-12 for evaluative purposes and a standard assessment portfolio for grades K-2.

The systemwide plan will be used by the 12 individual schools in the county as the baseline for developing their own plans, which can set expectations higher than those established by the county, but not lower. Individual school plans are due to the superintendent March 15.

The county advisory panel will review those plans and make recommendations to the school board. Once school board committees have reviewed the plans and recommendations the board will either accept

Johnston Sets Interim Punishment Rules For Students With Weapons

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County School principals are getting new guidelines this week that crack down on weapons in the public schools.

Principals will be expected to follow the procedures until a new weapons policy is adopted by the board, said Superintendent Ralph Johnston, who received the board's approval of the interim measures Monday night. "This is not a change of policy. We're just putting emphasis and direction on what that punishment should be."

The current weapons policy leaves punishment for a first offense to the principal's discretion; the new guidelines are similar to procedures that will go into effect under a proposed new policy.

"We will not tolerate weapons on campus, but it will require parent and student cooperation for us to enforce that," said Johnston.

He is directing principals to give any student found on campus with a weapon an automatic 10-day suspension, with a recommendation for long-term suspension. Parents will be notified under the system's due process procedures, a meeting set up with the principal and a follow-up letter of written notification of intent to uphold the suspension.

That decision may be appealed to the superintendent or his designated officer for review of the record. His decision may be appealed to the school board.

Co-chairmen Butch LeClerc and Joe Bryant of the schools' safety task force supported the move Monday night at Bolivia Elementary School and urged community support as well.

"I'm going to support you and I think these people will too," said LeClerc, gesturing to the audience.

Added Bryant, "We're asking parents and the school board to support us. This is something we're all afraid of. We all hear the rumors. 'Somewhere we have to make a stand.'"

Bryant said that so long as the school system continues to receive negative publicity the county will have difficulty attracting the type of industry it wants.

A working panel of the safety committee has recommended:

■establishment of a toll-free, 24-hour "hotline" for reporting of suspected weapons, drugs or other unsafe situations on campus, with regular monitoring of messages and alerting of appropriate parties;

■revising and strengthening the current policy, which is in progress;

■providing intensive training and development for faculty, staff and possibly some students;

■lobbying for stronger penalties at the state level; and

■initiating a stronger working relationship with the media to insure a balanced portrayal of activity within the schools.



STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

NEW GOP OFFICERS elected Saturday include Shirley Babson, chairman; James Brown, vice chairman; Pat Adams, secretary; and Tom Yeagle, treasurer.

Take Seats Back In Off-Year, Oppose Lottery, Speaker Says

BY LYNN CARLSON

Republicans should look to 1994's off-year elections as an opportunity to regain federal, state and local elective offices lost to the Democrats in 1992, the executive director of the N.C. Christian Action League told Saturday's Brunswick County GOP convention.

They should also oppose the statewide lottery measure sponsored by Rep. David Redwine, D-Brunswick, said the Rev. Coy Privette, former state legislator and 1992 unsuccessful candidate for North Carolina's 8th District seat in Congress.

"The party in the White House will lose support in the off-year elections," Privette said, drawing guffaws when he called "Willy and Hilly" Clinton "two of the best recruiters the Republican Party ever had in the

White House."

Privette said, "The gambling industry has targeted North Carolina as fertile ground." A state-run lottery would require a bureaucracy to operate it and would undermine community growth and exploit the poor, he added, claiming "it is a moral issue when people will spend money to gamble rather than feed their families."

The nation's massive deficit was not caused by 12 years of Republican rule in the White House, but by "a Congress which is totally irresponsible," according to Privette.

"They say you ought to sacrifice, but they haven't rolled back their outlandish pay increase," he said. "They're not sacrificing."

GOP Elects Officers, Passes Resolutions

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Barnette said he suggested the amendment to make the resolution "not as deliberate an attack on personalities."

The resolution as passed says a split of Calabash would set a "dangerous precedent" and could jeopardize other towns which, "based on a whim, greed or power abuse of a duly elected 'public servant,' could be legislated out of existence."

Education

Upon questioning by several delegates, language was removed from the party's education resolution preamble saying, "Instead of training our children to be self-centered and focused on their 'feelings' and their 'rights,' and 1,001 ways to have sex, our children should be being taught to read, to reason, and why and how to think and act responsibly."

The resolution as passed demanded that "traditional values be reinforced, not removed from the classroom, and that educators...cease functioning as therapists to our children and return to their primary function—the imparting of knowledge and the building and reinforcing of good citizenship and character."

Abortion

An anti-abortion amendment taken from the 1992 GOP national platform was amended to include the phrase "abortion is murder," on suggestion of Leland delegate Andy Morris. The resolution also opposes mercy killing and assisted suicide.

Values

A resolution promoting "cultural values" encouraged party members to reflect "the values we expect our fellow citizens to exhibit," praised

the Boy Scouts for "defending decency," opposed legal protection of homosexuals against discrimination, and opposed legislation which would allow same-sex marriages or allow such couples to adopt children or provide foster care.

In remarks after the resolutions discussions, outgoing chairman Payne told the group that Republicans should work toward making "the government get out of your way so you as individuals can make it or break it on your own."

He said Judeo-Christian ethics "say life begins at conception" and that "we are not born with a predisposition for a man to love another man."

He called unwanted pregnancies "an act of irresponsibility," adding, "When you create a human life, you're responsible for it."

Calabash Board Denounces Soles' Measure To Split Town

BY ERIC CARLSON

Commissioners representing both the original residents of Calabash and the newcomers in Carolina Shores voted unanimously Tuesday to condemn State Sen. R.C. Soles' efforts to split the town in two.

District 2 Commissioner Jon Sanborn made the motion that the town draft a resolution to Soles stating that "his efforts to introduce legislation to split the town are deemed not to be in the best interest of Calabash" and asking him to leave the town as it is.

Fellow District 2 board members Robert Noe, Stuart Thorn and Ray Card voted with Sanborn and District 1 commissioner Edward Rice in favor of the resolution.

Under the town charter, Mayor Doug Simmons, a lifelong resident of old Calabash, votes only to break a tie. Still, he voiced support for the motion, saying Soles' proposed bill does not reflect the wishes of most residents.

The mayor said Soles introduced the legislation to fulfill a promise to "a few people who have supported him for years." Simmons read a letter in which Soles makes three references to unnamed "problems" in Calabash and urges Simmons "to personally take the initiative" to iron them out.

Soles wrote that he had "made a personal commitment" to introduce the bill and warned that "unless some positive steps are taken immediately to bring about some understanding and compromise, I plan to push forward with this legislation."

"I don't care who he's committed himself to. I'd say it was pretty arrogant," said Charles Abarno of Carolina Shores. "It flies in the face of the popular vote down

here."

As evidence for his contention that there is widespread support for splitting the town, Soles has referred to a survey in which 60 percent of the Carolina Shores residents who responded said they favored Soles effort "if it included incorporation for Carolina Shores." But only 25 percent of the ballots were returned.

Carolina Shores resident Warren "Bud" Knapp accused Soles of "violating the civil rights" of Calabash citizens by introducing the bill. Knapp said he plans to ask the department of justice to investigate the legality of Soles' action.

In other business the board voted unanimously not to begin strict enforcement of an existing law that requires all commercial dumpsters to be screened from view.

At the board's last meeting, Building Inspector Edward Schaack was asked to draft a letter telling merchants that the town planned to enforce the ordinance in 90 days. The move came after the town received a complaint about an unscreened dumpster from a non-resident owner of property in Carolina Shores.

Several commissioners expressed reservations about imposing another regulation on downtown business owners who already feel oppressed by the town's decisions to discontinue garbage service and to strictly enforce a long dormant sign ordinance.

"Don't you think you're coming down particularly hard on every merchant in town for one complaint?" asked Carolina Shores resident Hank Rutter.

Instead of strictly enforcing the ordinance, the board agreed to have Simmons speak to the business owner and ask him to comply voluntarily with the law.

Price Is Not Negotiable: Utility Owner

(Continued From Page 1-A)

would be worth about \$2.5 million to a private utility company, based on figures supplied by the N.C. Public Utilities Commission.

Advisors agree that the company might be worth more than that to a public utility like the joint sewer authority created by Calabash and Sunset Beach. A public system would not have to pay taxes or make a profit.

Billups reminded the board that the purchase of Carolina Blythe, which currently serves homes in Carolina Shores and other parts of the town, is not necessary for the

creation of a joint sewer system.

"There are other options you can pursue, and perhaps that would be the best thing to do," Billups said.

Commissioner Robert Noe agreed, saying Calabash "is negotiating from a position of weakness" by only considering the purchase of Carolina Blythe as its sole option.

Noe suggested that the price might come down if Calabash began serious efforts to build its own sewer system. He said such a move would make Carolina Blythe less attractive to any potential buyer by reducing its potential customer base.

suggested an even more aggressive approach.

"Tell him you don't want to pay \$4.5 million and offer him \$2 million," Ramos said. "If he doesn't want to sell, you can have it condemned and pay him fair market value."

The board informally agreed to discontinue efforts to have Dennis establish a suggested purchase price for Carolina Blythe. It was suggested that Ramos or some other representative of the board contact Burnett and request information needed "so the value can be determined."

Health Board Taking Time To Look At Other Data

(Continued From Page 1-A)

"We believe that they are primarily concerned about the potential for excessive development, and rightfully so. But we also believe that restricting resources which may be beneficial to the environment and human health is not the way to limit development, and that planning and zoning are the most effective means to accomplish control of growth."

Billups also said that, according to the health department staff, more septic tanks permits for new construction were issued last year in Brunswick County than any other county in the state.

The taxpayers' group charges that there are discrepancies between tests conducted by Powell Associates and by county health department workers to determine fecal coliform levels in Sunset Beach's test wells. The group says that while Powell's tests showed pollution by fecal coliform bacteria, "no link to septic systems was demonstrated."

The one test performed by county workers "showed a complete absence of any fecal coliform bacteria in any of the wells," Waldmiller states.

Although the engineers have consistently recommended that any central sewer system include a stormwater runoff management component, neither town has asked the engineers to devise plans for a runoff control system.

"Stormwater management is a key element of the proposed environmental management program," Billips' letter says. "We are continuing an education program to reinforce the need for effective stormwater management in conjunction with wastewater management."

He adds that Sunset Beach "currently has one of the most stringent stormwater retention management ordinances of any coastal community, requiring stormwater retention even on a single-lot basis," but that there is a "continuing conflict" between stormwater management and septic systems.

Waldmiller said SBTA supports the efforts of the N.C. Coastal Federation to convince Gov. Jim Hunt to declare a moratorium on state funding of new central sewer projects until "an effective coast-wide strategy for sewage treatment that will result in the protection and enhancement of all coastal waters."

Billups' letter said the sewer plan is in keeping with the Coastal Federation environmental agenda, and that the endorsement of the federation, as well as the N.C. Shellfish Sanitation Branch, is being sought.

Pleasant Weather Expected

Temperatures and rainfall are expected to average near normal over the next few days.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday he expects several days of nice temperatures followed by a cooling trend. Overall he expects temperatures to average in the lower 40s at night climbing to the lower 60s on average during the day, with "a half-inch or so" of rain.

For the period March 2-8, Canady recorded a high of 67 degrees on the 8th, and a low of 34 degrees on March 6.

A daily average high of 63 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 43 degrees for a daily average temperature of 53 degrees, about 2 degrees above average.

He also recorded 1.44 inches of rainfall.

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