

Schools Asking \$13.5 Million For 93-94 Budget

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Commissioners will be asked to provide more funds for school operations and school construction this coming year, approximately \$13.5 million, or \$4 million more than a year ago.

A proposed \$19.25 million budget adopted by the Brunswick County Board of Education last Wednesday includes \$11.4 million in operating costs and \$7.85 million for capital outlay, including part of the money needed to build a new elementary school in the Leland area and to renovate and expand West Brunswick High School.

Of that total, the schools will be asking the county for \$9.43 million for current expenses, or day-to-day operations, a 26.53 percent increase over the \$9.43 million received last year. In addition to the usual capital expenditures for equipment and site improvements, the board is seeking \$4 million from the county for the two school construction projects, with another \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million expected from state half-cent sales tax revenues.

The current expense budget is divided into a \$10.57 million continuation budget and an \$827,454 expansion budget. The continuation budget would maintain current programs and reflects increased costs for insurance, custodial supplies and maintenance, and a 2 percent salary increase for locally paid employees to match that expected for state-paid employees.

Expansion budget items include funds to pay 10 lead teachers which are a key element in the county's

school improvement plan for 12-month rather than 10-month employment, \$300,000 to continue upgrading the school systems' use of technology; \$20,000 to tie in to a fiber optics network provided by a project headed by the University of North Carolina at Wilmington; a proposed new pay schedule for classified workers and a \$300 annual supplement for all bus drivers.

In a related public comment, Glenda Browning, PTA Council president, and Tina Child, Lincoln Primary PTA President, both of Leland, urged the school board to keep expansion of North Brunswick High School as a high priority, given the current and expected residential and commercial growth of the area.

"I don't think we're going to be able to service the growth," said Browning. "It's going to be phenomenal."

Assistant Superintendent Bill Turner said the North High project is ranked third in the system's 10-year plan, behind the West Brunswick and new northern area elementary school projects.

Technology Plan Approved

A plan by Technology Director Gene Zuck to put Level I of a 3- to 5-year technology plan into place before the start of the 1993-94 school year won the board's approval last week.

"We want something we can grow with, that won't be outdated in two years," said Zuck.

Level I allocates existing funds. It will provide a computer lab for each of the county's 12 schools, with at

least 15 computer workstations for students, a file server, and a laser printer and dot matrix printer; an uninterrupted phone line, modem and related software to provide telecommunications capabilities in each school media center; and several options from which principals may choose, at the rate of \$45 per student, based on average daily membership at the sixth month of the current school year; additional computer workstations in the lab, an instructional management system, multimedia equipment, courseware, or stand-alone classroom computer systems.

The proposed 1993-94 budget includes funds for software and hardware that will be needed to begin implementing the next phase.

Pay Plan Needs More Work

To the frustration of committee members, the board referred back for still more work a proposed pay plan for classified clerical workers after Finance Director Rudi Fallon said the last configuration of the four-step plan would cost more than the schools can afford to pay.

"I would prefer to develop something we can live with in the long term," said Fallon.

Board members Polly Russ and Yvonne Bright expressed dismay and frustration at the referral.

"I feel we're spinning wheels on this," said Bright. "Soon we won't need to worry about it for this year."

Added Russ, "As a committee member I am going to have trouble changing this. We came up with a plan we feel is equitable and fair to

the people who are in these positions."

However, Fallon said the changes proposed would increase the cost of funding those salaries to \$90,000 for a complete fiscal year. Based on years of experience and educational level, the largest cost increase was for media specialists and assistants, and adding in the information management system operators at the 12 schools.

The plan was two years in the making and when finally presented, did not address several categories of employees which then had to be added, changing the short-term and long-term cost of the plan.

The board had committed to paying the salary changes retroactive to Jan. 1, but Fallon said that sufficient funds were budgeted to handle the initial version of the plan, but not the most recent.

"We don't want to promise something we can't deliver," said Chairman Donna Baxter.

Other Business

In other business the board:

■ approved a flextime four-day workweek for the central office and schools June 14-Aug. 16 with all offices closed on Friday. Employees will work either from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., or if they are qualified and choose to take Friday as annual leave, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

■ referred to Turner and the school's principal a request from Union Elementary PTO President Sam Edwards for money to help complete Phase I of the school's baseball field. Edwards said a backstop fence

and bases are needed, at an estimated cost of \$1,500.

■ approved personnel recommendations (see related story this issue), with member Thurman Gause voting no. He said later he objected because he thought a school system employee was qualified and should have been promoted to a cafeteria management post at Shallotte Middle School.

■ supported continued involvement in a clinical teaching project with the School of Education at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and expansion of the collaborative relationship if funds are available. Two schools, Bolivia and Southport Elementary, are sites for the project, in which student teachers and their mentors learn from each other. Coordinator Hathia Hayes said expansion to additional schools and a higher level of collab-

oration would provide more opportunities for students to use what they have learned in the classroom, while also providing staff development and help in instructional reform for participating schools.

■ appointed Susan Gible to the Brunswick County Teacher of the Year selection committee.

■ learned from Turner that Brunswick County school buildings are valued at \$72,343,000, and the contents at \$9 million, for a total value of more than \$81 million.

■ heard from Turner that North Brunswick and West Brunswick high school cafeterias are showing a profit this year for the first time in many years, in part because they surveyed students to see what foods they preferred to eat. Two schools, South Brunswick High and Southport Elementary, are operating at a loss so far this year.

WEST AND SOUTH BRUNSWICK HIGH

New Instructors Named For JROTC

Willie L. Gore is coming home, but the retiring colonel's not giving up his U.S. Army uniform.

He will replace William Faught as Senior Army JROTC Instructor at South Brunswick High School at Boiling Spring Lakes.

Also, Col. Robert Y. Buff, currently of St. Louis, Mo., and formerly of Charlotte, will fill the Senior Army JROTC Instructor slot at West Brunswick High in Shallotte.

Both appointments are effective July 1.

William Jackson, acting senior instructor at West Brunswick High School, will return to his regular post as West's JROTC instructor. Returning as Army instructor at South Brunswick High will be Terry Gile of Bolivia, who has held that post at West Brunswick High this past year. The two chiefs served in the interim posts this school year following the death of West Brunswick's JROTC Senior Army Instructor William Cockrell.

Gore, of Woodbridge, Va., is currently administrator for training and staff development in the contracting career program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He holds a master's degree in student administration from Howard University and a bachelor of science in biology from North Carolina A&T State University. He is a graduate of War College and its Senior Service

College, National Defense University and Command and General Staff College.

Buff is director of resource management for the U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis. He has had a variety of experience in private industry and the U.S. Army in management and finance, including four years as an assistant professor of military science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. Buff served as pistol instruction director at ROTC Advanced Camp and coached the university's Varsity Rifle Team.

He also served as chief of the Office of Recruiting & Retention for the 108th Division, Charlotte.

Buff has a master's degree in business administration from Wintthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C., and a bachelor of science in accounting from Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Ky. Buff also has completed the U.S. Army War College, National Defense University and Command and Staff College.

He is a certified public accountant, formerly employed as an accountant by Arthur Andersen & Co., vice president and general manager of North State Motor Co. Inc., and corporate director of systems and data processing for Ervin Industries, Inc., all in Charlotte.

In other hirings approved by the Brunswick County Board of

Education last Wednesday, April 7, Dorothy Reynolds of Wilmington will join the central office staff as computer systems coordinator, a slot that has been vacant since the resignation of management information systems coordinator Liz Locus this past summer.

Kristyn Bahr of Wilmington was hired as a special education teacher at Leland Middle.

The board also: ■ hired Elizabeth Aikman of Ocean Isle Beach, cafeteria manager, Shallotte Middle; Glenn Dowe, Leland, 5-hour cafeteria assistant, Leland Middle; Gennie Madison, Shallotte, teacher assistant, Supply Elementary; Carla Broach, Long Beach, teacher assistant, Southport Elementary;

■ approved leaves of absence for Sharon Vaughn, middle grade teacher, Leland Middle; and Thelma Fullwood, elementary teacher, Bolivia Elementary;

■ accepted the resignation of June Robinson, Supply, cafeteria manager, Shallotte Middle; Donna Grissett, Supply, custodian, Shallotte Middle; and Ida Mae King, Shallotte, cafeteria assistant, Shallotte Middle; and Margaret Dassing, special education, West Brunswick High and Bolivia Elementary; Sabrina Parrish, Supply, 6-hour cafeteria assistant, Shallotte Middle.

■ transferred Naomi Hewett, Supply, from assistant cafeteria

manager to 6-hour cafeteria assistant, Shallotte Middle.

■ approved three substitute teachers.

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My family has been here in Brunswick County since circa 1748. They lived off the land and sea passing down recipes from generation to generation. The original Brunswick Countians utilized local ingredients to develop what is now known as Calabash Cuisine. In comparison, Calabash cuisine and Low Country (region between Charleston and Savannah) cuisine are very similar. Many of the people who settled this area came from the Low Country region and brought their cooking traditions with them.

We here at Ocean Isle Cafe wish to preserve our local cuisine native to Brunswick County. If you have some recipes to share or have any requests for recipes, please contact me by mail. We will feature local recipes here at our establishment on a weekly basis, giving credit to the originator.

A fifty dollar prize will be awarded to the recipe of the month. Variances on recipes of the northern persuasion will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please send recipes to:

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111 Causeway Dr., Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28469. ATTN: RECIPE CONTEST

Ensure that you include your name, address, and phone number. Recipes for desserts, vegetables, meats, etc.

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State Acquires 128.4 Acres Of Bald Head Woods Property

The state has acquired 128.4 acres of Bald Head Woods in Brunswick County.

In Phase I of a two-part project, the state purchased 96.8 acres for \$2.4 million and received a donation of 31.6 acres, valued at \$500,000.

Negotiations for Phase II will begin later this month, according to a news release from the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

"The ecological significance of Bald Head Woods ranks it among the top three maritime forests in North Carolina," according to NCDEHNR spokesman Jeannette Johnson. "It is unique because it has undeveloped transition zones with

soundside salt marshes and open dune systems on the oceanfront. Also, the subtropical climate allows many plants and animals to live at their northern limit."

The N.C. Division of Coastal Management will manage Bald Head Woods as a component of the N.C. Coastal Reserve. The reserve protects important natural areas for research, education and public enjoyment.

The negotiations and purchase were handled by The Nature Conservancy's North Carolina chapter on behalf of the state.

The Nature Conservancy is an international nonprofit membership organization committed to preserving endangered and threatened

species. The North Carolina chapter's mission is to preserve the state's diverse plant and animal life by "finding, protecting and maintaining the best examples of ecosystems, communities and species native to the state."

The purchase was made possible by a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service awarded to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

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