

Leland Middle School To Use Socratic Approach This Fall

Upper grade students at Leland Middle School will get plenty of practice this coming year in learning how to express their own opinions while respecting viewpoints different from theirs.

Principal Diana Mintz briefed school board members Monday night on the Paideia (pronounced pi-day-uh) program that begins this fall for all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students at the school.

The Paideia approach incorporates lecture, coaching and Socratic-type small group discussions. Leland Middle will focus this year on Socratic discussion groups as ungraded electives, with the expectation that teachers will gradually be incorporating the approach in their own classroom work.

Small, heterogeneous groups of students will meet with trained faculty members for an hour every other Wednesday for a Socratic-type seminar, or small group discussion, on materials the students have read in advance of class. Subject matter will range from classical readings to art, music and current events—topics that lend themselves to wide-ranging discussion.

"There are no right or wrong answers," Mintz said. "It is to encourage rich discussion among the students." To be allowed to participate, students are expected to be

prepared, to be polite, to ask questions and to show respect for one another.

Based on experiences at other schools, the program is expected to help students develop critical thinking and verbal expression skills, and to develop understandings

of cultural diversity and diversity of opinion, said Mintz.

Schools using the approach have also reported improved student behavior.

"Students learn how to argue without fighting," she said.

Thirty-four teachers, including all sixth- through eighth-grade and resource teachers, completed three days of intensive training in the approach this summer.

In other business the board:

■ Froze salaries at their July 1 level for clerical classified employees whose jobs were reclassified this past spring.

Those employees received pay raises ranging up to 25 percent in some cases. The group will not receive the 2 percent pay raise approved by the state legislature last month for other classified personnel.

■ Approved South Brunswick High School's attendance policy and code of conduct, which is similar in most respects to that to be used at North and West Brunswick high schools this year. Infractions and consequences are addressed at five levels of severity.

■ Approved, on first reading, a bloodborne pathogens policy that provides for protection of workers from exposure, as well as education and training.

■ Approved, on first reading, a revision of the code of student conduct to reflect new state legislation relating to weapons at school.

■ Heard a request from Jesse Bryant, a black community leader representing a "group of concerned citizens," for the board to reconsider its "past decisions" and suggesting the possibility of legal action otherwise. Bryant is part of a group that has lobbied the board to reconsider the transfer of Lincoln Primary School Principal Joseph Butler to the central office and to increase the number of minorities holding high-visibility leadership positions in the school system.

■ Adopted a resolution supporting the efforts of the Brunswick County Educational Foundation Inc. and encouraging others to do so, and declaring plans for a joint countywide campaign with the goal of making Brunswick County "No. 1 in education in eastern North Carolina."

Joe Giamalva, executive director of the foundation, told the board the foundation doesn't intend to tell the school system how to do its job, but intends to help provide the resources, such as money, personnel and equipment, needed to carry out specific projects identified by the school system and approved in advance by the board. To do that, he said, the foundation needs the formal endorsement of the board.

"There are no right or wrong answers. . . it is to encourage rich discussion among the students."

—Diana Mintz, Leland Principal on Paideia program

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Brunswick County Board Of Education Continues Filling Vacancies

With teachers scheduled to begin reporting to school Aug. 18, the Brunswick County Board of Education continues to fill staff vacancies.

Monday night the board approved a lengthy list of routine personnel actions, including the hiring of two teachers for West Brunswick High School. John Bryner of Durham will be teaching Spanish and Wesley Shoemaker of Hope Mills will be teaching biology. Shoemaker is the son of Waccamaw Elementary School Principal William Shoemaker.

West Brunswick High School physical education teacher Billy Mills of Shallotte was transferred to a Job Training Partnership Act School-to-Work Job Specialist position shared by North Brunswick and

South Brunswick high schools.

School board member Thurman Gause voted against approval of the personnel lists, citing his objection to the transfer, which he said the former coach felt forced to accept against his will.

Among other transfers, Wendy Milligan of Ash, formerly dropout prevention specialist with the central office, will join the staff at West Brunswick High School as a guidance counselor. Counselor Judy Harris of Yaupon Beach will become the guidance counselor at South Brunswick Middle School.

Also hired Monday were these certified employees:

Lynne Baldwin, Long Beach, Kristen Edmunds and Victoria O'Brien, Wilmington and Timothy

Stephens, Madison, middle grades teachers, South Brunswick Middle; Patti Fite of Wilmington, school psychologist; Martha Long of Tabor City, pre-K handicapped teacher, Union Elementary; Diane Smyre of Fayetteville, special education, Supply Elementary; Quaintana Griffin of Longwood, special education, Shallotte Middle; Ronald Skowronek of Wilmington, special education, Leland Middle; Kelli Furry of Leland, special education, Lincoln Primary; Deborah Jones of Ocean Isle Beach, elementary, Shallotte Middle; Raymond Wilson of Sunset Beach, physical education, Waccamaw Elementary; Alfred Wells of Greenville and Kim McCuiston of Bolivia, special education, South Brunswick Middle; Nathalie Dearman of Ocean Isle Beach, elemen-

tary (interim), Bolivia Elementary; Donald Millwood of Long Beach, Choices, South Brunswick High; Ronda Denton of Long Beach, science, South Brunswick High; Dianne Lock of Durham and Sharon Pruitt of Shallotte, middle grades, Shallotte Middle; Lynda Alley of Shallotte, band director (interim), Shallotte Middle; and Diana Aldridge of Caswell Beach, elementary, Southport Elementary.

Hired in non-certified positions are Kitty Skipper of Leland, school secretary, Leland Middle; Elouise Jacobs of Leland, Choices assistant, Leland Middle; John Hewett of Supply, six-hour custodian, West Brunswick; Fay Layman of Boiling Spring Lakes, Anne Stewart of Ocean Isle Beach and Mary F. Hewett of Shallotte, teacher assistants, Supply Elementary, and Renee Stevens of Shall-

lotte, interim teacher assistant at Supply Elementary.

Military leave of absence for South Brunswick Middle Principal Les Tubb of Wilmington was extended from July 30, 1993, to Sept. 30, 1994, not 1993 as voted at an earlier meeting. He is working with the N.C. National Guard.

Educational leave was granted to Winnie Norris of Longwood, a teacher assistant at Waccamaw Elementary.

Other transfers approved were as follows: Karen Cayot of Shallotte, from special education teacher, Supply Elementary, to diagnostician, central office; Ophelia Keaton of Riegelwood, from academically gifted teacher to diagnostician, central office; Willistine McMillian of Leland, social studies, South Brunswick High, to middle grades, South

Brunswick Middle.

Retirements were approved for Jean Parker of Caswell Beach, testing coordinator, and William Cheers of Shallotte, warehouseman for the child nutrition warehouse.

Resignations were accepted from Catalina Jones of Boone, speech specialist, Bolivia/Supply schools; Claudia Laugisch of Lawton, Okla., special education teacher, Union Elementary; and Barbara Holcombe of Shallotte, elementary teacher, Union Elementary; Brenda Fulford of Supply, teacher assistant, Supply Elementary; and Ola Johnson of Ocean Isle Beach, teacher assistant, Union Elementary.

James Cobbs of Wilmington, head custodian at Supply Elementary, was fired.

The board also approved two substitute teachers.

Adult Lunch Price Raised; Student Prices Unchanged

Adults will pay more for school lunches in Brunswick County Public Schools this fall, but student meals will cost the same as last year.

Monday night, the board of education raised the price of an adult lunch from \$1.75 to \$1.90 to better reflect the actual cost of the meal.

In a food service audit earlier this year, the schools' child nutrition division was commended for its performance in some areas, but auditors found two instances of non-compliance, Child Nutrition Director Rebecca Brandon said Monday.

In one instance, the division had more cash on hand than it should have as a non-profit operation—4%

1993-94 Meal Prices Brunswick County Public Schools

	Breakfast	Lunch
Child (all)	60 cents	
Grades K-8		\$1.05
9-12		1.15
Reduced	30 cents	.40
Adult	75 cents	1.90

to 5 months' operating funds. That has since been reduced to 3 months' funds, by purchasing needed equip-

ment for school cafeterias.

The second item was the adult lunch price. At \$1.75 it did not reflect the actual cost of the meal, which varied last year from \$1.72 to as much as \$2.09 from one school to the other. The average cost of just over \$1.89, and that became the basis for the increase.

While prices for adult meals served in the schools do not vary, through the federal School Lunch and School Breakfast programs students may qualify for free or reduced price meals, depending on their household's income. Applications are available from all 12 county schools.

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