

STUDENTS TO MAKE UP LOST DAYS

# School Board Going To Commissioners On Budget Again

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
 Brunswick County Board of Education members will ask county commissioners to approve one more budget change after balancing the schools' operating budget by shifting money from equipment and vehicle funds.

The board wants to move \$63,219 of the county's special one-time \$1 million technology appropriation to round out a revived capital outlay fund, and to tap its remaining state half-cent sales tax revenues.

"Does this mean we have to go back to the commissioners?" asked District 2 board member Polly Russ during the four-hour meeting held in Southport Elementary School's new cafeteria.

"Yes, we have to go before the commissioners and again ask for more money," said Chairman Donna Baxter. "I'm having a problem with that myself."

The funds sought, and included in the revised budget resolution adopt-

ed by the school board Monday night, are of two types: either already budgeted by the county for the schools, but for a different purpose; or state money designated for school construction or equipment, but maintained in county-controlled accounts.

Under the terms of a consent agreement reached with commissioners, last month the school board agreed to gut two of its three capital outlay funds as needed to come up with enough money for the day-to-day operation of the schools, while also looking for other ways to cut or shift expenses.

In exchange, county commissioners made certain concessions as well.

As of Aug. 30, the school system still lacked \$100,000 to balance its proposed county budget. Since then, said Finance Officer Rudi Fallon Monday night, her staff has been able to shift some expenses from local to state accounts; the state has

provided funds for two support positions, and eight schools absorbed new computer lab technicians into their regular staff instead of using money from the county's one-time technology appropriation to hire them.

The school system is proposing it be allowed to purchase equipment for the school system using \$243,781 identified by school auditors and county Finance Officer Lithia Hahn as remaining in the half-cent sales tax account maintained by the county for the schools, as well as the \$64,219 not spent for computer technician salaries.

The sales tax fund—state money designated for school construction and equipment needs—includes a \$1,657 balance from 1992, \$99,400 left from money set aside in an earlier budget for a new central office; and the \$142,724 Supply Elementary School construction contingency fund that was never tapped.

The school system proposes to use the \$308,000 to buy equipment ranging from cameras that are being mounted on buses to monitor and record student behavior to furniture, athletic equipment for the high schools and middle schools, fax machines for all schools, and media, vocational education, bus garage and custodial equipment.

"These are our bare-bones needs in this category," said Connor.

More library books for Supply Elementary are not on the list; however, assured board member Bill Fairley she is confident that funds will be available from "other sources" for that purpose.

**Making Up Days**  
 Brunswick County Public School students will go to school Friday, Sept. 17, until 1 p.m. and then all day Friday, Nov. 5, to make up the days of instruction lost because of the threat posed by Hurricane Emily in August.

Schools opened on Sept. 1, two

days late, because of the storm off-shore.

District 3 board member Bill Fairley voted against the schedule change, saying he thought it inappropriate to schedule a partial day of school to make a full day of lost classes; and that the teacher workday Sept. 17 had been scheduled at a time the calendar committee understood teachers "really needed" a workday.

However, Superintendent Ralph Johnston said the days were those chosen by a majority of teachers and schools in countywide polling.

In addition, students need to be in attendance at South Brunswick High School Friday to receive results of tuberculin skin tests administered Wednesday (see related brief in this issue).

**Now Try This**  
 Assistant Superintendent Bill Turner told the board state industrial hygienist Will Service and labor department representative Michelle Parkin revisited Lincoln Primary School for additional air quality testing and changed some of their earlier suggestions. Service also offered new recommendations.

The consultants indicated that some of the suggestions made earlier to correct poor air quality may now be causing a problem themselves by affecting the interior humidity level. High humidity levels encourage microbe growth.

"I told them we had called a lot of people in and spent a lot of money correcting the problem," said Turner. "now you tell us what to do and we'll correct it."

"We're in a kind of Catch 22 situation."

The new suggestions are to:

- wash down and bleach all exposed surfaces and discard visibly contaminated porous materials such as books, since mold is visible in the third-grade wing;
- replace air cleaning filters when

cleaning is complete;

- hire (preferably) certified carpet cleaners to use the hot water extraction method to clean all carpets, then dry within 24 hours;
- stop running the air system continuously, since this may be raising the humidity level inside the building to unacceptable levels, and instead run it on automatic;
- use cooler temperatures over several weekends to dry the building, and warm the building gradually; and
- begin monitoring humidity levels in all buildings at the school.

Turner said the maintenance department is in the process of buying equipment to use for in-house testing of indoor air quality in all schools.

Lincoln Principal Pat Carney said she has heard from only two parents about children with health problems that may or may not be related to air quality. Also, faculty and staff are pleased with the improvements that have been made over the past year, she said.

**Other Business**  
 In other business, the school board:

- Changed the date for student academic pre-testing from Sept. 8 and 9 to Oct. 13 and 14, to allow a newly-appointed testing committee chaired by Principal William Shoemaker to determine what will be tested, how the testing will be administered and how the results will be reported.
- Set a special meeting for 5 p.m. Sept. 22 at the central office, to meet with the architect from Boney & Associates regarding plans for school construction projects and fees, and to discuss several personnel matters.
- Approved disposal of surplus equipment by sealed bid or auction. "We have a lot of pure junk we need to get rid of," said Turner.
- Approved, on second reading, a

policy on bloodborne pathogens, and a revision of the code of student conduct that reflects recent changes in state law regarding possession of weapons on school campuses.

- Proclaimed September Brunswick County Literacy Month at the request of the Brunswick County Literacy Council.
- Voted to continue reimbursing mileage at the rate of 25 cents per mile for all use of personal vehicles on school business.
- While the state now allows reimbursement at a rate of 28 cents per mile for travel under 60 miles when a staff car is not available, Finance Officer Rudi Connor recommended continuing under the existing policy because the school system has limited funds for travel reimbursement.
- Heard a report on the county-wide Tech Prep program from Bill Furpless, vocational director; James McAdam, a curriculum coordinator; and David Batten, county Tech Prep steering committee chairman.
- The program directs "middle majority" students into a six-year coordinated high school-community college curriculum that blends vocational/technical and academic studies, grants credits in some instances at the high school and college level, and leads to an associate degree. New related courses include applied English, applied math and principals of technology.
- Heard from Turner that the \$10,000 budgeted to inoculate targeted employees for Hepatitis B under new bloodborne pathogen guidelines is enough to provide shots for only 105 employees, not the 200 identified as having occupational exposure, and that all will not receive shots unless another \$7,000 in funds is identified.
- Board member Bill Fairley, an attorney, questioned the system's liability if all the identified individuals are not either inoculated or moved to jobs without potential exposure.

# More Residents Of Ruttled Roads Seek County, State Help

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
 Fresh from his success in helping Shingletree Acres residents with their road problems, Robert Gore is now out to see that the N.C. Department of Transportation also takes over maintenance of Old Georgetown Road and Jenrette Road.

Approximately 25 to 30 residents of the roads, which are in the Ocean Isle Beach-Grissetown area, marched for television cameras at noon Friday and also attended a Brunswick County Board of Education meeting in Southport Monday night.

Like the main road in Shingletree Acres subdivision near Calabash, Gore says these two roads were never maintained by the county and so were never taken over by the state, though he said both have been in continuous use since at least 1900.

Gore says the Georgetown Road, the original post road from Washington, D.C., to Georgetown, S.C., is "the oldest road in continuous use in Brunswick County."

The segment of Old Georgetown Road from N.C. 904 to Ocean Isle Beach Road (known locally as Four Mile Road) is scheduled in the state's Transportation Improvement Program for construction and paving starting in fall 1995.

"That schedule would coincide very well with big business plans," Gore said Friday, "but not with the people who live on those roads."

Gore said 80 people had signed a petition asking DOT to add to the state system Jenrette Road, and to speed up its takeover of Old Georgetown Road, both of which

are impassable by school buses in rainy weather. Then, said Gore, children of the seven families on Jenrette Road must "run the gauntlet of woods filled with half-crazed deer hunters" 1-1/2 miles to reach the school bus.

The state has advised Gore that he needs to provide documentation of Jenrette Road's existence as he did earlier for the Shingletree Acres road.

Gore doesn't think that's necessary; he believes it's a question of how state DOT officials are interpreting the layout of the road.

Last February the school board adopted a resolution supporting state take-over of such roads, and county maintenance of them until state maintenance is finalized.

As requested Monday night, Chairman Donna Baxter told Gore the board attorney would be drafting a resolution for the board to approve and forward to county commissioners and state officials. Gore will ask commissioners to grade the roads and to widen Jenrette Road so that the three school buses that travel it can pass each other.

James Jenrette, and his father before him, have maintained Jenrette Road almost continuously since the turn of the century, except for one period when it was kept up by a paper company.

"I've had three heart attacks and six bypasses, but I'm still trying to maintain the road so the children can get an education," Jenrette told school board members Monday. He said it was time for someone else to take over his self-appointed job.

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