Preliminary Meeting On Schools' Performance Audit Slated Oct. 18

BY SUSAN USHER

County and school officials will meet Oct. 18 with representatives of the state auditor's office to discuss the scope of a performance audit of the Brunswick County Schools' central office.

At the two-hour meeting at the board of education administrative offices in Southport, Jimmy Benson, deputy auditor, and Sam Newman, performance auditor manager, will present the agency's audit proposal. They are expected to discuss scope, procedures, timing and costs to be shared by the county and the county school system. Participating in the meeting will be the superintendent of schools and county manager, county and school system finance officers, and the chairpersons of the board of commissioners and board of education.

The auditor's office will begin its on-site work around Jan. 3; by then it expects to have completed assignments received from the General Assembly this summer.

Typically a performance audit looks beyond a system's finances, at utilization of all resources, organizational structure, internal communications, staffing patterns and ratios, policies and procedures, planning efforts and overall effectiveness of the various service areas such as transportation, exceptional children's services and finance, Benson said in an interview earlier this year.

To prepare for that visit, the agency will circulate a management questionnaire among central office staff, principals and assistant principals, teachers, support staff and possibly other groups served by the central office. Questionnaires used in other school system audits by the agency have focused on perceptions of the areas evaluated during the performance audit. The goal of the questionnaire is to help identify strengths and weaknesses in the system.

> *"I hope we can get it done fast and get a good report; something that they can use."*
>
> —Wyman Yelton, County Manager On Performance Audit Expediency

Based on its examination of the school system, the state auditor's office will offer a series of recommendations for addressing weaknesses found in its operation. These could range from proposals to fill gaps in policies and procedures to complete restructuring of the way the central office serves its 13 schools.

District 3 County Commissioner Wayland Vereen first called for the study earlier this year to resolve recurring questions such as whether the central office is "top heavy," not because of any alleged wrongdoing.

The idea was supported by the school board, which agreed to share the cost, and a joint request was submitted in June.

"This is going to be more of an educational process for me," County Manager Wyman Yelton said Tuesday. "I'm not sure how complete or effective they are, but I hope they are both. That is something everybody wants."

Neither Yelton nor Superintendent Ralph Johnston is certain how long the performance audit will take, but both say they hope the work will be done quickly in time to influence decisions relating to the 1995-96 budget.

"That's the very point. You need this kind of thing to help in deciding what direction to go in," said Yelton, noting the information should be especially helpful as at least four of the school board's five members will be new.

"I hope we can get it done fast and get a good report; something that they can use," said Yelton. "I'm sure it will help them."

The preliminary meeting was rescheduled from Oct. 5 because of a conflict for school system officials, with Johnston offering county officials a choice of three alternate dates. He said he was involved in a vocational program audit that morning and he and school board Chairman Donna Baxter were part of a Brunswick County delegation visiting the Patrick Science Education Center in Aiken, S.C., Oct. 5 and 6.

The tour group was to have included Don Warren, chairman of the board of commissioners. At a meeting the night before, Warren publicly criticized school officials' lack of availability to meet Oct. 5.

Holden Board Begins Town Manager Search

Who will be the next town manager of Holden Beach?

Town commissioners started narrowing the field of applicants during a closed-door meeting last Friday and plan to reconvene Oct. 20 at 8 a.m. to continue the process.

Town Manager Gus Ulrich plans to retire at the end of the year. He has agreed to stay on until the town board finds a replacement.

Mayor Gay Atkins said the town received about 30 applications and each commissioner had an opportunity to review the resumes prior to last week's meeting.

Between now and next Thursday's meeting, Atkins and Commissioner Sid Swarts will check references and do background checks on five applicants who have been singled out by the board as possible finalists.

"We had all gone in individually and read the applications and used a grading of one to five. From that we went through them Friday and pulled out the ones and twos and from that group pulled out five to work on," Atkins said.

"These applications looked good so for various and sundry reasons they were picked out," the mayor said.

Atkins said she thinks the board can hire a new town manager by the end of the year. She said most of the applicants are in a position that they can leave on short notice.

On Saturday, commissioners met with local builders, planning and zoning board members and building inspector Doug Gillette to discuss proposed lot coverage regulations and a proposed definition for "ground level."

Atkins said town attorney Elva Jess may present some recommendations on both issues at the board's Oct. 26 meeting.

Reny's Any Old Thing

A unique collection of both past and present

Full line of Department 56 inc.

Tom Clark Creations

Snowbabies.

Plus many other collectibles!

Snowbabies.

Christmas Shop and full gift line plus limited edition artworks

Hwy. 130 at Waccamaw River in Ash
12 miles from Shallotte

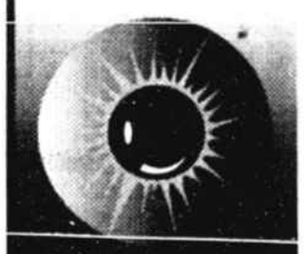
(910)287-3182 or 800-424-6286

Use our 800 number if you are outside our telephone exchange

©1994 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

J. MARK SAUNDERS, O.D.

FAMILY OPTOMETRY



- Comprehensive Eye Examinations
- Ocular Emergencies
- Contact Lenses & Glasses Prescribed
- Diagnosis & Treatment of Diseases of the Eye
- Full Selection of Eyeglass Frames

CALL 910-754-9687 FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

Office hours by appointment.
Evening appointments available.

Member American Optometric Association

Suite 3 • Promenade Office Park • 143 Holden Beach Road • Shallotte, NC

Portable Dog Kennels

10x10x4-ft. tall–$200

10x10x6-ft. tall–$225

Includes delivery within 20 mile radius

McLamb Fence Co.

579-9753 • Shallotte

Chain Link Fence

4-ft. tall with 4-ft. walk gate and 12-ft. drive gate.

$3.00 per running foot installed

MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN'

America's Best Selling Car

Just Got More Affordable!

Hurry! This offer ends soon!

All New '94 and '95

Taurus

Dual air bags are standard equipment.

7 To Choose From

2.9% APR FOR 48 MONTHS

WINDSTAR

The future of minivans!

Dual air bags • 7 to choose from!

Stk. #2020. Was $22,610 Now $20,407

SAVE $2,203

'95 Crown Victoria

Fully loaded with 113 option package, dual air bags. Includes tax & tag. One time Red Carpet Lease payment and it's yours for 24 months. St. #2027.

$10,413*

'95 Mustang GT

Dual air bags, anti-lock brakes and loaded!

St. #2012. Was $20,910

Now $19,287

SPECIAL CLEARANCE PRICES ON ALL '94s!

New '94 Ranger XL Sport

$11,590 Automatic, air, cassette, aluminum wheels. Stock #8414

'94 Program Taurus GL

$14,990 V-6, automatic overdrive, air, full power, AM/FM cassette, rear defrost, dual air bags, anti-lock brakes, aluminum wheels. Stk. #P194

New '94 Probe

Loaded, dual air bags

DOUBLE REBATE $500 +500

$1,000

New '94 Aerostar XLT

Quad captain's chairs, high capacity AC, power windows & locks, cassette, air bag.

Was $24,219 Now $20,142

TOTAL DISCOUNT $4,077

FREE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

Even in non-warranty situations:
* Out of gas * Dead battery
* Locked out * Flat tire * Need a tow

THIS VEHICLE COMES WITH ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE ASK ABOUT IT...

'94 Program Tempo GL

Power windows, power locks, power seats, air, automatic, defrost, cassette. 16,000 miles #P159

$9,990

America's Best Selling Small Car!

New '94 Escort LX Station Wagon

Air, cassette, air bag, cruise, automatic. Stock #8180.

Was $14,000 Now $11,367

SAVE $2,633

New '94 Aspire

Dual air bags, air, cassette. Stk. #8302

$8,997

PRE-OWNED—AFFORDABLE—DEPENDABLE

'91 Dodge Daytona–Automatic, V-6, air, cassette, 33,000 miles #8426-A. $7,495

'90 Cavalier Wagon–31,000 miles, automatic, air. Sale price $6,223, $1,000 down, 42 months at 11% APR. $149 per month.

All vehicles to qualified buyers plus tax and tags. All rebates to dealer. All trade-ins accepted at ACV. *Lessee may have option to purchase at anytime during the lease or at the end of the two years. Lessee responsible for excess wear and tear and excess mileage over 30,000 at .11¢ per mile. Lessee subject to credit approval and insurability as determined by Ford Credit.

JONES Ford

754-4341 • 1-800-832-5328 • Hwy. 17 N., Shallotte • SALES: Mon.-Fri. 8 AM-7 PM, Sat. 9 AM-4 PM • SERVICE: Mon.-Fri. 7:30-5:30

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN' MOVIN'

©1994 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON