

# Items of interest from Perquimans County Schools

## New program is started

A new program for emotionally handicapped students has been initiated in the Perquimans County Schools.

In the program, students whose classroom teacher feels they have emotional problems are referred, evaluated and then, if a problem exists, are placed in the program for short periods of time.

Students in the program continue their regular classroom assignments and also work with Mrs. Freda Nelson, teacher in the EH program. The approach used in the program is that of an engineered classroom including equipment

recommended by the Division of Exceptional Children with the State Department of Public Instruction.

This, the newest program, compliments other programs for exceptional children offered by the local school system. These include programs for children with learning disabilities, emotionally disturbed, mentally handicapped, and a program for gifted-talented students. Pre-school age children with special needs are also receiving attention with the school's participation in the Access to Mainstream program.



**ATTEND DISTRICT NCSBA MEETING** — The Perquimans County Board of Education had 100 percent representation at the District I meeting of the North Carolina School Boards Association held Feb. 8 at Bertie Senior High School in Windsor, N.C. Those attending, shown above were: Mrs. Mary Bryant, Advisory Council member; Chairman Clifford Winslow; Superintendent Pat Harrell, Preston Stevenson; Mrs. Estelle Felton,

Advisory Council member; Emmett Long, George Baker and Ralph Harrell. Featured at the meeting were discussion groups on community schools, North Carolina's testing programs, school finance study, liability insurance and board policies, and exceptional children programs. Following dinner, the group heard comments from area legislators and State Superintendent Dr. Craig Phillips.

## Statewide testing is discussed

Paul Ward, recently named Testing Coordinator for the Perquimans County School system, has started meeting with facilities in each school to discuss the upcoming competency testing of 11th grade students and the statewide annual testing program for students in grades 1, 2, 3, 6, and 9.

In his work to present information on the statewide testing program, Ward reviews the legislation mandating these programs, explains the time tables being used to the teachers, the actual test schedule, and follow-up activities that will be necessary. He reviews what the tests ac-

tually consist of and well as what type of information will be provided to the local school system by the state following computation of the test results.

As a tie-in to the tests being required by the state, the local school system will also be doing its local annual testing according to Ward.

Following his meetings with faculty members in the schools, Ward explained that the attitude surrounding the testing is a very positive one. He explained that local school administrators see the need for the testing and all personnel are very open about the programs.



**TALKING WITH DIRECTOR** — Clifford Winslow, (left) Chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Education and Vice President of the North Carolina School Boards Association is shown at the District I NCSBA meeting talking with Dr. Raleigh E. Dingman, Executive Director of NCSBA.

## School conducts label collection

The Perquimans Union School is in the midst of a special collection drive aimed at getting greatly needed audio-visual equipment for the school. The program, Labels for Education Program, is sponsored by the Campbell Soup Company and offered to K-8 public, private, and parochial schools. The students and faculty of the Union School are trying to collect enough labels to get

a filmstrip projector and a filmstrip previewer. The students are saving their labels and they would appreciate it if friends of the school would do the same.

Any Campbell's Soup, Chunky Soup, Soup for One, Campbell's Bean or Franco-American label counts in the drive. Anyone wishing to contribute labels for this drive can call the school at 426-7355.

**GREETINGS FROM STATE DEPARTMENT** — Dr. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, is shown as he presents comments at the District I gathering of school board members. (Staff photo by Kathy M. Newbern)



## Represented at conference

Clifford S. Winslow of Belvidere, chairman of the Perquimans County Board of Education, met in Washington, D.C. Jan. 22-24 with 415 other school board members from throughout the nation to discuss federal legislation affecting public education and to confer with their Congressmen and Administration leaders on those issues.

The event was the fifth annual conference of the Federal Relations Network, sponsored by the National School Boards Association. The Network consists of one school board member from each of the nation's 435 Congressional districts.

A grassroots organization, the Network serves as a year-round channel of communication, providing information to local school districts on education issues and facilitating direct input from the school districts to Congressmen representing those districts.

Conference participants focused on legislation to create a separate U.S. Department of Education and to grant federal tax credits for tuition paid to private schools, minimal competency testing for students, adequate federal funding for public schools, and excessive paperwork and costs to school districts in complying with federal regulations.

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## Career center concept:

## Boards are enthused

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

HERTFORD — "I believe we're in the process of making history in northeastern North Carolina." That statement was made Monday night by Clifford Winslow, presiding chairman when the Boards of Education of Perquimans, Gates, and Edenton-Chowan met here in joint session to further discuss the concept of a career education center.

The meeting was held as a follow-up to discuss three recent visits made by representatives of the boards to operating career centers.

Those members making the visits expressed the positive aspects of their observations emphasizing the enthusiasm expressed by students participating in the various center programs visited.

In discussing the center visited in Suffolk, Dr. John Dunn, Superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools, said "They showed that three separate school units could combine to do the type of things we're talking about."

While the majority of comments heard at the joint meeting were positive and enthusiastic the group emphasized that its actions are "still in an exploratory state."

As a next step in exploring the career center concept, the boards approved a notion made by Eugene Jordan of the Edenton-Chowan Board to authorize the three superintendents to "pull together" data available with an aim at needs assessment. Ken Stalls, Vocational Education Director, for the three counties, shared some information concerning projections on possible students enrollment per county, teaching positions, and course offerings. Stalls explained that the projections presented were gathered for discussion only, as a starting point for questions

concerning the center concept on a local level.

Each county also appointed an additional member to the steering committee researching how the concept might be initiated locally. The following how join the three Board Chairman and Superintendents on that committee: George Baker for Perquimans, T.P. Griffin for Edenton-Chowan and William Harrell for Gates.

The boards also discussed several possible funding sources for such a center.

Eugene Jordan said, "whether this thing lives or dies depends on whether or not we get outside funding." Paul Barber of Gates said, "As I see the situation, the center is good but the finances are a big block in my eyesight." Similar sentiments were expressed by others in attendance. Replying to the financial questions raised, Ken Stalls pointed out that the teaching positions required by the center would already be in the boards' budget while the actual cost issue would be year-to-year operation and any additional positions needed in areas such as clerical work and maintenance.

As a follow-up to the funding discussion, several suggestions were made concerning agencies and/or individuals that might prove helpful in the proposed project among those mentioned were Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. and Congressman Walter B. Jones who has already pledged support. Additional support has also been pledged by Dr. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent.

While many aspects of the possible project remain to be explored, the reasoning behind consideration of the project was summarized in a statement made by Ken Stalls: "If these things (offerings at the center) answer the needs of our students better than what we're now doing then it bears looking at."

## Personnel attend workshop

Educational office personnel from Chowan and Perquimans counties attended a two-day workshop held in Hertford recently to discuss the role they play in the school system.

Discussing such areas as attitude, working as a team, verbal and non-verbal communication, employer-employee relationships, improving efficiency and improving operations, those attending represented 100 percent participation from the two school systems.

Leading the workshop were Barbara Walker and Odell Watson with the State

Department of Public Instruction's Division of Human Relations; and Wendell Hail, Consultant with Human Relations at the Regional Center. Also assisting was Janice Lassiter, Secretary to the Assistant State Superintendent.

Making a "pop-in visit" at the workshop was Dr. Craig Phillips, State Superintendent. Dr. Phillips stressed the importance of the educational office personnel in the total educational team. He pointed to their responsibilities to upgrade themselves and the administration's responsibility to provide these opportunities. Dr. Phillips also said that a salary schedule on the state level for these persons is coming closer to a reality.

Concerning the comments made, Perquimans County Superintendent Pat Harrell responded, "We should provide opportunities for these people to improve their skills and competencies. I feel we have an obligation to do that. They are both our left and right arms. We will continue to support and encourage their attendance at state conventions and meetings that would prove helpful to them."

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