

School Board Passes Force Reduction Policy

By L. F. Amburn, Jr.

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education adopted a Reduction in Force policy Tuesday night which incorporated nine of 12 recommendations put forth by a Teacher Advisory Committee. The omission of more definitive language regarding the board's decision on terminations was called "dictatorial" by one disgruntled faculty member.

Sixty-five of the 150 members of the professional staff listened attentively as their concerns were addressed by Gil Burroughs, and the administration's explanation of recommendations from Dr. John Dunn, superintendent.

One of the recommendations from the Teacher Advisory Committee which dealt with free transcripts of hearings was accepted by Dr. Dunn but later restored after a fear of excessive costs was raised by Cecil W. Fry. It was estimated that there could be a reduction in force of 15 staff members if preliminary projects are accurate. The cost of a transcript, including legal fees for the hearing, could run as much as \$300.

Fry said this is too much for the board to accept, saying that almost

everyone would request a transcript if it is provided free of charge. The language which was put back into the policy, as officially adopted, puts the burden of the decision on the chairman.

Dr. Edward G. Bond attempted vainly to get a decision delayed until a later date. He said although the policy had been before the board since mid-February he felt more study was needed of the changes in the document being discussed.

His motion to table died for lack of a second and he cast the lone "no" vote when Chairman Eugene Jordan put the motion.

The board's decision on the policy was delayed from last Monday night when Dr. Dunn informed the board that he was not ready to make a recommendation, saying he needed more time to incorporate requests from the Teacher Advisory Committee.

Burroughs told the board in his presentation that there is a need for specific criteria regarding teachers to be terminated, as well as special characteristics for maintaining a sound professional staff. He added that the recommendations "will help the board and superintendent maintain a sound educational program" since the teachers are only

asking for an explanation as to why they are being terminated.

Referring to a resolution adopted last week praising the professional staff during a special Parent-Teacher Association week, Burroughs said: "Your action tonight can give substance to the resolution or your action can speak so loud that (the professionals) don't hear it."

Dr. Dunn maintained that during these times when the reduction in staff is upon the board, the board must consider the schools first, and the staff second. He said the policy addressed four points:

- 1-It provides for input from the professional staff.
- 2-It gives the board the right to make the decision of what's best for the students first, and the personnel second.
- 3-It provides definitive process to the aggrieved to be heard.
- 4-It provides a reinstatement process.

In response to a question from Dr. J. H. Horton, Chris Bean, board attorney, said the policy being discussed builds in more safeguards for the professional staff than the model published by Robert Phay of the UNC Institute of Government. "It certainly violates no one's due process," he continued. "In particular sections it goes well beyond due process."

Public Parade

Not More Study

Reps. Vernon James of the Isle of Pasquotank and Charles Evans of the "state" of Dare have introduced legislation to create a legislative commission to study the pollution problems and water resources needs of the Chowan River Basin.

At first brush it reminds one of the illiterate defendant in court. The jurist was making sure the defendant's rights were protected. "Do you want a lawyer?" he asked. After a minute's hesitation, the man replied: "Naw-sir, I'm in enough trouble already!"

The Chowan River Basin and the Albemarle Sound Basin don't need another study group, especially one created by Politicians. Anyway, the \$5,000 that HB 747 would put into the project over the next two years won't pay the expense of a couple of meetings.

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., has demonstrated great leadership in the Chowan River project in the past two years. The State Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, under the able hand of Sec. Howard N. Lee and his deputies, primarily Dr. Neil Grigg, has action plans in place.

The Chowan Restoration Task Force, headed by Capt. Al Howard of Arrowhead is a positive force. Members of the Task Force already know the water pollution problems and water resources needs of the Chowan River Basin.

While the legislation is well intended, unless there is something to HB 747 which we have missed, it just ain't what is needed.

Lighter Side

Court buffs along the Public Parade, who haven't felt quite comfortable in the new edifice on North Broad Street, got a real treat Wednesday of last week. Judge Edwin S. Preston took them "home".

Judge Preston announced earlier in the day that the 2 P.M. session of Chowan County Superior Court would be held in the historic courthouse on East King Street.

The excitement not only thrilled a number of people, it shocked Sheriff Troy Toppin's memory. When the "high sheriff" was instructed to open court he did fine. That is up to the final three words of his familiar declaration.

Judge Preston waited patiently. Then after about three tries he took over: "Mr. Sheriff, I think you got it open."

On his way into the courthouse, the popular jurist handed us an official looking document. Since it wasn't determined whether or not to have it made a part of the official record of Judge Preston's proceedings along the Public Parade, we want it to be fully recognized here:

In The Superior Court
State of North Carolina
County of Chowan

The chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina has been pleased sufficient to issue the undersigned a Commission to hold Court, to issue any lawful Order, and to do all good things in the Great State of Chowan.

It has come to the immediate attention of a large company of witnesses gathered in and near the memory of Samuel Johnson, James Iredell and others, and the

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THE CHOWAN HERALD



Vol. XLVII - No. 16

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, April 16, 1981

Single Copies 20 Cents.

ECHSA Overturns Earlier Ruling

ElderLodge Beds Approved

ElderLodge on Paradise Road and Chowan Hospital were on the receiving end April 8 when the Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency approved highly competitive applications for additional health services.

ECHSA approved an additional 34 beds for ElderLodge here, overturning an earlier denial by its Project Review Committee. The beds are included in a 64-bed addition which also will have 30 home for the aged (rest home) beds.

Also, ECHSA approved applications from Chowan Hospital to operate an electroencephalogram, and instrument that measures electric activity in the brain. The hospital was approved for acquisition of Nuclear Medical Services at an estimated cost of \$388,777.

The ECHSA and State of North Carolina earlier had approved expansion of the Edenton hospital by 10 beds.

ElderLodge-Edenton is owned by Cape Colony Haven, Inc., and managed by SouthEastern Health Services, Inc., of Wilmington. The new addition will be owned by Colonial HealthCare, Inc., and leased to parent company of ElderLodge. ECHSA also approved the lease involved in the transaction.

L. F. Amburn, Jr., president of the corporations involved, said the owners are delighted the full ECHSA board reviewed the ap-

plications closely and recognized that the Colonial proposal is in keeping with cost containment desired for health care facilities.

ECHSA denied a project in Washington County which the committee had earlier approved. It was for 50 nursing home beds and 20 rest home beds. The projected cost was placed at \$1.5-million.

"The overall cost of the Souci proposal was too high," Roy Selby, ECHSA executive director, was quoted as saying. There was considerable doubt that adequate financing could be obtained in a short period of time, and the beds in our region are needed now."

The Colonial HealthCare application was among 12 completely reviewed. The requests were for 440 nursing home beds in Eastern North Carolina, at a total cost of \$7.5-million. The competitive review process was necessary because the 1981-86 Health Systems Plan For Eastern North Carolina documents the need for only 190 new beds.

In addition to the cost containment factor, the Colonial application had broad based community support. Those in attendance at the Project Review hearing on March 26, included: C. A. Phillips, chairman, Chowan County Board of Commissioners; W. B. Gardner, town administrator; R. M. (Pete) Thompson, a member of the Chowan Hospital board; A. C.

Hudson, president, Chowan Credit Union; James C. (Pete) Dail, president, Edenton Savings & Loan Association; Jerry Hendee, executive vice president, Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce; and Fire Chief Luther C. Parks.

The Cape Colony officers--Amburn, Jack Habit and John A. Mitchener, Jr. -- are joined by W. P. Rawls of Wilmington, president of SouthEastern, in the Colonial Corporation.

Rawls announced April 2 that the decision had been made to go ahead with the expansion at ElderLodge even without designation of additional nursing home beds. The new addition, with a development cost of \$700,000, contains 13,000 square feet. It will connect two existing wings and make an enclosed courtyard.

Cape Colony Haven, Inc., owns three additional acres on Paradise Road. ECHSA's decision last week will probably result in a third building program at the site much sooner than had been previously anticipated.

Rawls, who is handling development of the project, has said construction could begin within the next 90 to 120 days. It is expected to take four months to complete the addition.

Arts And Crafts Festival Slated

A Colonial Arts and Crafts Festival will be held in Edenton April 24-26, coinciding with the Biennial Pilgrimage. The location will be downtown Edenton at the old P. H. Rose building. Charge for each 8-foot by 10-foot booth will be \$15 for the weekend.

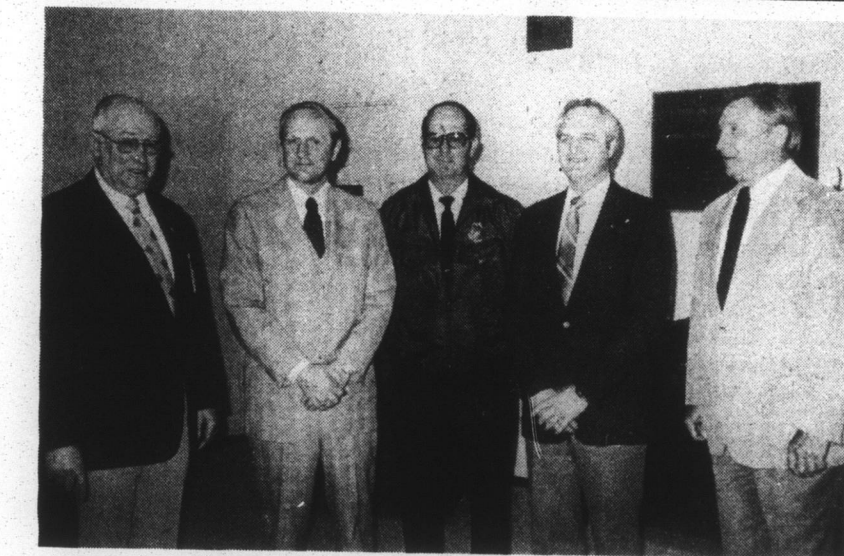
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Edenton Cable TV Target Date Is July 1

Construction of the receiving tower and business offices for Albemarle Cable Television Company are scheduled to begin Monday on a 1.64 acre site located on old U.S. 17 North, reported Don Vicini, general manager of Compass Corp., of which ACTV is a subsidiary. Edenton Construction Company is general contractor for the project.

Vicini reported last Friday that a target date of July 1, 1981 has been slated for the Edenton area. Residents will be notified by mailer of the availability of service and of a special installation package. Ultimately, cable television will be available through ACTV to residents in Chowan County and the Town of Hertford.

Vicini explained that the Edenton system is broken down into nine sections and that about 30 days from the July 1 start-up date will be required to get all of Edenton on the line. He said there will be a span of about three months before cable television available countywide. The county system will consist of 10 sections. The system will include 30.5



AGENT VISITS EDENTON — Robert L. Pence, FBI agent in charge of North Carolina is shown above second from left during a visit to Edenton Tuesday morning. He is shown with, from the left, Sheriff Troy Toppin, Police Chief J. D. Parrish, C. B. Smith, chairman of the county Crime Prevention Council, and C. A. Phillips, chairman of the Chowan County commissioners.

FBI Agent Spence Lauded Cooperation Of Law Officers

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's chief agent for North Carolina lauded the spirit of cooperation of all law enforcement in this state which is credited with the high arrest rate in bank robberies.

Robert L. Pence said the number of bank robberies solved in North Carolina is in the 80 to 90 per cent range. He said law enforcement cooperation, coupled with a strong FBI commitment in this state has proven to be successful.

Pence said the Reagan Administration has indicated a new emphasis on street crime and bank robberies. In recent years the FBI has reduced bank robbery service about 25 per cent and the number of unsolved robberies have skyrocketed.

"What has been tried isn't working because people are more mobile," Pence said. The national

rate of these type crimes solved is near 50 per cent. "This is not a problem in North Carolina because we never reduced our commitment in this area," he added. The problem is more complex, he pointed out, because there are some 1,800 branches in this state.

Agent Mark Goss of Elizabeth City told Pence the cooperation among agencies in Northeastern North Carolina is "splendid." He paid special tribute to the Chowan County Sheriff's Department and Edenton Police Department.

C. A. Phillips, chairman, Chowan County commissioners, said the national posture appears to favor a stronger FBI. Earlier downgrading, he said, is bad and has encouraged crime.

Pence observed that the Freedom of Information Act was estimated to cost the government

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RECEPTION HELD — N. B. Bullard of the Edenton Historical Commission is shown above with artist Linda Funk of Raleigh following a reception held at the Cupola House held last Sunday. During the reception, she presented a composite drawing of 20 historic sites which is now on sale at the Barker House.



MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS IN EDENTON — A district meeting of the N. C. League of Municipalities was held in the Municipal Building here Tuesday afternoon. Leigh Wilson, center, executive director, goes over last minute details with Mayor Roy L. Harrell, left, and Dr. Allen Hornthal, a local councilman who is a district director of NCLM.