

# The Franklin Times

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## Court Orders Total Integration This Fall

### Transfer Suggested

### HEW Rejects Franklinton School Plan

The U. S. Office of Education, a division of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, has rejected the Franklinton City Board of Education's plan for further desegregation of schools.

HEW officials have suggested the transfer of grades 7, 8 and 9 or grades 1 through 4 from the B. F. Person Negro school to the predominantly white Franklinton High School as a means of gaining federal acceptance of the Board's plan.

In a letter to the Franklinton officials on July 12, made public Monday, Walter S. Warfield, Acting Education Branch Chief, Office of Civil Rights said the Franklinton plan is "not adequate to accomplish the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964".

The letter further states, "As you know, the Supreme Court recently held that 'if there are reasonably available other ways, such for illustration as zoning, providing speedier and more effective conversion to a unitary, non-racial school system, freedom of choice must be held unacceptable'".

The Franklinton plan had called for a percentage increase in the number of Negro students assigned to the Franklinton High School. The Warfield letter also calls on the system to "spell out in detail the stages it will take for 1969-70 to completely eliminate its dual school structure."

A spokesman for the Franklinton Board said he had no idea what the Board might decide to do in the case. He said about \$100,000 in federal funds are involved, should HEW cut off the funds. He also said the money was not the prime thing and that once the money is turned down, the Franklinton Board would be in court in a manner similar to that now occupied by the county Board of Education.

Franklinton had an earlier plan rejected on March 28. A letter from Lloyd R. Henderson, Education Branch Chief at the time, stated, "Freedom of choice is not serving to desegregate your schools." Henderson said he would expect a plan "that will show in detail what steps you plan to take to eliminate the racially dual structure."

An attempt to move the seventh grade from the Negro school to the predominantly white school in the summer of 1966 met heated rejection by a large number of Franklinton citizens. Public meetings at the time became a focal point of much criticism by out-of-town newspapers and Washington officials.

Since that time, the Franklinton system has been plagued with threats of cutoff of funds by federal officials and have attended hearings in Washington in efforts to resolve the differences.

### Recorder's Court

The following cases were disposed of in Recorder's Court on Tuesday, July 30th:

Melvin Green, n/m, larceny. Defendant having failed to comply with order of court, suspended sentence hereby revoked. Detainer to be filed. Allan Parrish, w/m/24, trespassing. Discharged on payment of costs. Defendant not to go on property of Alice Faye Harris without her prior permission.

Melvin Green, n/m, assault with deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious and permanent injuries not resulting in death. Probable cause found. Bound over to Superior Court under \$200.00 bond.

Clavin Ray Burnette, w/m/22, exceeding safe speed. State takes nol pros.

Willie Carter, n/m, possession non tax paid liquor; possession for sale. \$25.00 fine and cost.

W. A. Davis, n/m/39, public drunkenness. Not guilty by reason of chronic alcoholism. Defendant ordered committed to custody of Commissioner of State Dept. of Correction for not less than 30 days nor more than six months; custody of defendant retained



This Is A Dive?

Woody Warren, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Warren of Louisburg puts on a display of special diving in photo above. Young Warren participated in the diving contests held at Green Hill Country Club here Sunday. For story on winners and other pictures see page 8.

## \$190,000 Paid For Social Security

A record \$190,012 was paid out in social security cash benefits to 3,178 residents of Franklin County for February, according to Robert A. Flynn, Raleigh Social Security District Manager, an increase of \$38,060 over the amount paid out for December 1966.

"February 1968 was the first month in which increased benefit rates provided by the 1967 Amendments to the Social Security Act were payable," Flynn noted.

Nationally, the amount of monthly benefits exceeds \$2 billion, an increase of more than \$360 million above the December 1966 figure. More than 24 million men, women, and children, or nearly 1 out of every 8 Americans, are now receiving some type of monthly benefit.

About 18.4 million of those receiving benefits at the end of February were 62 or older. An additional 2.2 million were disabled workers under 62 and their young dependents.

About 3.4 million social security beneficiaries were young widowed mothers and their children, the district manager said, noting that a total of about \$19 billion has been paid to orphaned children and their mothers since January 1940, when monthly survivors benefits first became payable.

In the past 6 years alone, benefit

payments to this "younger group" have amounted to 1 1/4 times as much as the amount paid out in this category during the preceding 21 years.

Many younger people also receive benefits due to disability. More than \$176 million is being paid each month to more than 2.2 million disabled workers and their dependents - a number that is 10 percent higher than that of December 1966.

Most of the changes in the 1967 social security amendments provided more protection for younger people," Flynn noted. For instance, some 175,000 children are now eligible for benefits based upon the earnings of a mother who has died or is entitled to disability or retirement benefits. Previously, women needed to have work-

ed for at least one and a half of the last three years. However, that requirement has been removed. Payments can now be made to the children of a woman worker who has died, become disabled, or retired if she has enough work credits - earned at any time - to be "fully insured."

Another change made 100,000 younger persons - disabled workers and their dependents - eligible for benefits. The amount of social security work credits required for the payment of benefits to workers who become totally disabled before they reach 31 years of age has been reduced substantially - for those below 24 years of age, to as little as a year and a half of coverage.

## Health Budget Amended, Water Line Question Settled

The Board of County Commissioners, barely fielding a quorum, held a relatively uneventful regular session here Monday. Only Commissioners George Harris, Norwood Faulkner and Brooks Young were present. Commissioners E. M. Sykes and Richard Cash did not attend the session.

In the afternoon session, the Board settled some questions which had arisen in connection with the financing of a water line at Franklinton. The Commissioners explained they wanted to borrow some \$70 to \$80,000 only at such time as the funds would be needed. "We'd like to reduce the \$92,000 to \$83,000 and save some interest," Commissioner Faulkner explained.

The financing of a water line and tower to a new plant site at Franklinton had been agreed upon in July by the Board and the Franklinton Town Council with each paying a certain portion of the cost. The Commissioners wanted to clarify just how much interest was involved in such a loan and when the actual loan would be executed. Franklinton town attorney W. P. Pearce spoke for the Franklinton group. He was accompanied to the Monday meeting by Franklinton Water Commissioner Charlie Hight and Lewis Thompson, Jr.

The Board also amended the Health Department budget upwards to \$58,817.00 from an original figure of \$57,547.52. The reason for the increase was explained as receipt of additional state funds.

Richard Timberlake, a native of Franklin County appeared before the Board, accompanied by two other

state officials to discuss a project in eleven counties designed to "improve the area for improvement for industry." County Accountant Kenneth Braswell, secretary to the Board, said he was under the impression that the idea is in the planning stage and no details were given. He stated, "The State Planning Task Force is laying the foundation for the plan."

The Board passed resolutions recommending the State Highway Department approve the addition of Stratford Drive in Louisburg and Savage Street in Franklinton to come under state maintenance Secondary Road system. Industrial Development Director Kenneth Schubart appeared before the Board and gave a progress report of his department's activities.

The Board passed a motion to hold its September meeting on Tuesday, September 3, in lieu of the regular meeting due to the Labor Day holiday. All county employees are to observe the holiday, according to the motion.

### Current Off In Louisburg Sunday

Louisburg electrical department supervisor Harold Foster has announced that electricity will be cut off in the downtown business section, East Nash Street and Tan Street here Sunday from 4 a.m. until 5:30 a.m.

Foster said that electricity on East Nash Street and Tan Street will be off until 9:30 a.m. Service to the business district is expected to be resumed at 5:30 a.m.

U. S. Eastern District Judge Algernon Butler issued his long-awaited decision in the Franklin County school case today and ordered total desegregation in all county schools this fall. The order, following closely the plan presented to the court on July 15 by the U. S. Department of Justice, says the "Franklin County school unit shall be divided into six unitary attendance zones, each to be based on the attendance area heretofore serving the predominantly white high school located therein, as follows: Louisburg, Bunn, Youngsville, Gold Sand, Edward Best and Epsom".

The Board is allowed to combine the Epsom attendance zone with a neighboring zone under the order.

In a telephone conversation with Board attorney E. F. Yarborough and Supt. Warren Smith in Clinton, N. C. this afternoon, the order was read but no details were available as to just how much say the Board is to have in the final designation of schools to be used.

It is understood that under the court order, released around 1:30 P.M. today, that Riverside, Gethsemane and Perry's, all former Negro schools, would be used as elementary schools when the fall session begins in three weeks. How many grades are to attend these or the other schools has not been made public and it is assumed that this decision might be left to the Board and be based on available spaces.

The order states that all "children in a district must attend a school within their attendance zones, except that where pupil distribution may result in unequal utilization of school capacities based on pupil-classroom ratios."

The Board of Education had asked that a three-step plan be approved by the court in order to gain time needed to acquire additional facilities. The

order means that children will have to be shuffled from one school to another within the next three weeks.

Attendance zones must be established along the lines of the areas now being served white students attending white high schools. All students, regardless of race, living within these areas will attend the same school under the order. There cannot be any grades, located in more than one school in the same zone. For example, there can not be a first grade at the Louisburg High School and a first grade at Riverside School.

An earlier plan discussed by the Board indicated that elementary schools would be established at Perry's, Riverside and Gethsemane School sites under an order such as this. However, Mr. Yarborough and Mr. Smith both indicated that time was needed to study the order and no decisions have yet been reached by the Board.

It is expected that a Board meeting will be called, perhaps tonight, to discuss the order and to study means of complying with it.

Faculties will follow the students under the decision and a map showing the exact geographic zones must be presented to the court not later than next Wednesday.

## Approves ESEA Budget

The Franklin County Board of Education gave final approval of the ESEA budget of \$498,527 here Monday night. Certain changes in the budget as proposed by ESEA Director Earl Martin had been ordered by the Board in meetings last week.

Included in the revised appropriations is an experimental reading program aimed at aiding students experiencing difficulty in reading. Two new positions are included in the budget, one a reading supervisor and one reading teacher.

Unlike the two meetings of last week when Board members met past midnight, Monday's meeting was relatively short. Assignment of teachers across racial lines as called for in the Board's court-ordered plan of desegregation, was discussed at length Monday and it was disclosed that 26 vacancies exist in the county system at the present time.

Student assignments were studied

in a meeting last Thursday night and decisions on where to move 750 Negro students per the Board's plan were made at that time. Superintendent Warren Smith was authorized to order six portable classrooms in anticipation of the need for additional classroom spaces when schools open three weeks hence.

In a somewhat controversial decision last Thursday night, the Board on a split vote passed a resolution releasing certain students living inside the county, but who had attended out-of-county schools during the past year. Board member Clint Fuller made the motion to release some 15 such students in the Youngsville, Pilot and Pearce's area. Lloyd West seconded the motion. William Taylor Boone voted "aye" on the motion giving it a passing margin. Jones Winston voted "no" and Chairman Horace Baker did not vote, although he voiced opposition to the move.



Football Drills Start Thursday

(See Story Page 8)

Louisburg head football coach Tommy Twitty, kneeling, is shown talking over Thursday's preseason start with five veterans from last year. Pictured left to right are: Tommy Wrenn, returning guard, Charlie Hobgood, returning halfback, All Conference and All 1-A East, Thomas Finch, returning end and linebacker; Neil McDonald, returning fullback and Phillip Robertson, returning halfback. All candidates are to report to the school Thursday night at 7 p.m.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.