

School administration moves were less than some expected

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

There was little shuffling done in the first phase of Brunswick County schools' reorganization which had kept the rumor mill busy for several weeks.

"I think a lot of people were expecting a lot more," superintendent Ralph Johnston said when the special meeting concluded last Wednesday.

The administration at Southport Elementary and South Brunswick High schools will stay the same, with Latty Stanley and Sue Sellers continuing as principals. Phil Tate will serve as Stanley's assistant principal. Gene Bowden and William Hargrove will continue as assistants at South Brunswick High.

South Brunswick Middle School will have a new principal, Dr. Richard Lawson, currently assistant principal at Griffin Middle School in High Point. Tom Simmons will continue as assistant superintendent.

Another new addition is Dr. Patricia Carney of Fairfax County, Va., as principal at Lincoln Primary School, replacing Joe Butler, who was named director of migrant education and parent involvement. Dean Peterson of Leland was named principal at Waccamaw Elementary School, replacing William Shoemaker, who was put in charge of testing and accountability with Jean Parker, currently the county schools testing coordinator.

Sandra Robinson, who had been assistant principal at West Brunswick High School, will replace Mark Owens as principal at Charlotte Middle School, whom the superintendent said is expected to retire this school year. That move leaves West Brunswick with a vacant assistant principal's position that was left unfilled after last week's meeting.

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Ralph Johnston

All of the other school administrative positions were kept the same:

•North Brunswick High School -- Bob Harris, principal, and Ron Jenkins, assistant.

•Leland Middle School -- Diana Mintz, principal, and Doyle Brinson, assistant.

•Bolivia Elementary School -- David Corley, principal, and Wanda Frazier, assistant.

•Supply Elementary School -- Carolyn Williams, principal, and Cliff Jones, assistant.

•West Brunswick High School -- Ed Lemon, principal, and Jerry Small, assistant.

•Union Elementary School -- Zephia Grissett, principal, and Harry Martin, assistant.

•Waccamaw Elementary School -- Terry Chestnut, assistant principal.

•Shalotte Middle -- Bill Detrie, assistant principal.

•Lincoln Primary -- Faye Nelson, assistant principal.

In the central office, the superintendent kept Bob Rhyne as middle school supervisor, Christine Hall as elementary school supervisor and James McAdams as secondary school supervisor. Nelson Best will remain as athletic director.

Community schools coordinator Freeman Gause was named one of three attendance counselors. He will serve the western section of the county. Also, Anne Mitchell was named dropout prevention

specialist.

The principals which have been working on an interim basis will be given probationary contracts, the superintendent explained after the meeting, but he plans to see if state law will allow their time as interims to be considered as time earned toward tenure. After three probationary years teachers and principals are eligible for tenure, he said.

"We deliberated long and hard," the superintendent said about the changes, but he admitted that with so many other tasks facing him during his first seven months he had little time to evaluate the principals and he thought it unfair to shift administrators based on their students' achievements.

Because the principals have begun to implement plans and are being a consensus among their teachers, Johnston said he felt it was better to keep them where they are. However, the superintendent said he is planning training and development sessions to help the school administrators move forward on achievement.

"The principals that have been sitting have begun some things," the superintendent said. "What this does is leave an opportunity for those who were in there to do the work they began."

"We feel this is a good move," he said. "I think it's fair."

The school system is advertising for the assistant principal's position at West Brunswick and the assistant superintendent of instruction spot left open with Mose Lewis' retirement. Also to be filled are two new attendance counselor's positions for the southern and northern sections of the county.

Among other changes still being considered is basing supervisors in the three school districts rather than keeping them based in the central office, Johnston said.

The board of education has scheduled another meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday (today) at the central office to further discuss personnel matters.



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