

Tommy Warren is named interim manager by council

By PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
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Tommy Warren will serve as interim city manager of Roxboro beginning March 25.

Following a closed session after their regular meeting on Monday, city council members voted unanimously for Warren, who has served as assistant manager for the past decade, to lead the city staff following current manager Jon Barlow's departure.

Barlow will begin as Fuquay-Varina

town manager on April 1.

Warren has been on staff with the City of Roxboro since 1988. He served as engineering technician before moving up to the post of assistant manager.

He has served two prior terms as interim manager, each of which lasted for approximately six months.

Mayor Samuel Spencer said Monday, after the announcement that Warren would once again take over as interim manager, "I can't think of anyone more qualified and closer to the operation of the City of Roxboro and its employees than Mr. Warren. He has the experience,

the knowledge and the rapport with personnel. He will do a fine job of seeing that the operation of the city goes on."

Warren said he was appreciative of the confidence placed in him by council members and Spencer.

He noted that some challenging months were ahead, especially when council begins working on the budget for fiscal year 2011-12.

"I look forward to the challenge," he said, "the budget will be interesting, but I have been working closely with Mr. Barlow and have been very involved in the process" of developing the budget for the

past 10 years, as well as the work done so far on the upcoming budget.

Upon making the motion that Warren be named interim city manager, council member Ralph Clark said he looked forward to working with Warren in the new role.

Council voted to raise Warren's current salary by an amount of \$75 per day while he serves as interim manager.

Spencer told *The C-T* that the council would soon begin the process of hiring a new manager. He said he was currently working to gather dates and information about advertising the position.



Tommy Warren

GREASE IS THE WORD!



Grey Pentecost / C-T

PREPPING FOR THE SHOW — Roxboro Community School students are pictured rehearsing this week for their production of *Grease: The School Version*, which will be showcased on Friday and Saturday nights at the Kirby Theater. The production will feature students in grades six through 12. Tickets for the performances are still available. See page B1 of today's edition for more details.

'It's tough'

Commissioners receive budget request from PCS Supt. Cartner

By TIM CHANDLER
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"We are in a situation now, funding wise, that this school system has never faced before."

Gordon Powell, chairman of the Person County Board of Education, spoke those words Monday night during a joint meeting of the school board and the Person Board of County Commissioners.

Powell offered comments prior to a presentation of the school board's proposed budget request to commissioners from Person County Schools (PCS) Supt. Dr. Larry Cartner. During that presentation, Cartner outlined confirmed and anticipated funding cuts. He also said that the loss of personnel, both teachers and non-certified staff, was likely.

"It's time for us to act," Powell said earlier. "Our children don't have time for us to wait."

Commission Chairman Jimmy B. Clayton told Powell he "realized" the "budget situation" the school board was in and he acknowledged, "it's tough."

Both sides pointed out that there were many funding questions that would be unanswered until the General Assembly

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DPI report: Long-term suspensions, acts of violence decrease in schools

Increase seen in expulsions, short-term suspensions, dropout rate

By GREY PENTECOST
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According to a crime, violence and dropout data report released by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) last week, the number of long-term suspensions and reportable acts of violence in Person County Schools decreased in the 2009-10 school year from the year prior, while there was an increase in the number of short-term suspensions and expulsions, and in the dropout rate.

Reportable acts of violence decreased in the 2009-10 school year to 10 from 21 in the 2008-09 year, an improvement that Schools Supt. Dr. Larry W. Cartner

credited to the employees, students and community.

In terms of suspensions, short-term suspensions (those equal to 10 days or less) rose last year to 1,373 from 942 the year before.

"In response to our parents and employees, school administrators have taken a much stronger stand on classroom disruptions," said Cartner in a press release. "While this has increased the number of short-term suspensions, it has improved the classroom climate for learning."

Cartner said that while it is important never to give up on a child, PCS emphasizes respect and expected behavior standards in the classroom. He added

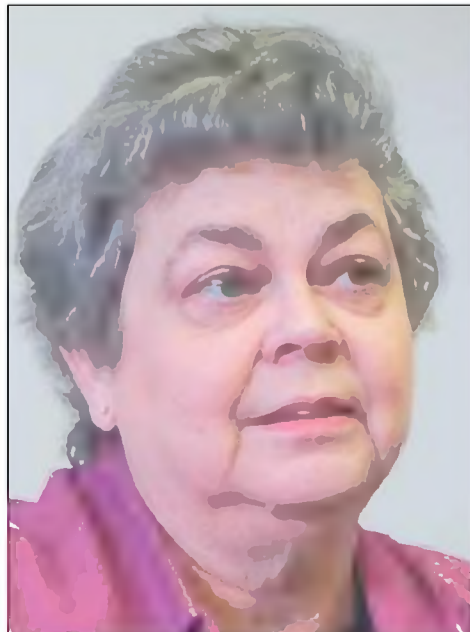
that he was grateful to the community for sticking to that standard

Long-term suspensions (11 days or more), decreased from 31 in 2009-08 to 26 in 2009-10, while expulsions increased from zero to three. An expulsion may entail a student being prohibited from enrolling in school programs for the remainder of the school year or for an entire calendar year.

According to the DPI report, the number of dropouts in PCS increased from 92 to 99 students, causing the rate to increase by 7.6 percent (from 5.4 to 5.96).

However, according to a PCS press

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Margaret Bradsher

PCBOE member Margaret Bradsher appointed to Governor's Gang Task Force

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Person County Board of Education member Margaret Bradsher has been appointed to the Governor's Gang Task Force.

Bradsher said this week, "Hopefully, what I learn from this will help us implement policies in the schools" in Person County that will address the problems of gang-related activity here.

The former Person High School administrator said she had been aware

of gang issues in Person County for several years. She witnessed the loss of young people to the gang culture, she said, although at first she and other administrators did not realize what was happening.

After attending a workshop on gangs and seeing a presentation by the Durham Police Department several years ago, while serving as assistant principal, Bradsher said she realized, "I had not looked at our kids and said, 'We have a gang problem.' We didn't know it then, but all the signs were there. We were looking at it every day but we didn't

recognize it."

She noted that, while serving as an administrator at Person High, she had excellent help in Person County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Cheryl Poole, who served as Student Resource Officer and now works with DARE and G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) students.

Being so close to Durham, Bradsher said, afforded Person County a "bird's eye view of what was happening to kids there." She said she and others in the schools began to understand that "this is reality."

Research has since told her, she said, that the problem does exist and that gangs "will be more of a draw for our kids if the community doesn't offer something to take their place."

The entry age for gang involvement is 10, Bradsher said.

"Most people think it's 16- or 17-year-old bad kids," who get involved in gangs, she said, when in fact, elementary age children are at high risk.

The Governor's Gang Task Force is funded by American Recovery and Rein-

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