

Local School Day Gets Longer

By KELLIE DIXON
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education voted unanimously Thursday night to adopt a plan that lengthens the school day for elementary and middle school students.

Board members became aware in 1999 that the school system was falling short of a state rule that mandates 1,000 hours per year.

But they did not take action on the problem until this year.

The proposal that Superintendent Neil Pedersen presented to the board differed from a plan proposed on Feb. 10, which called for adding 25 minutes to the elementary school day, 20 minutes to middle-school days and 10 minutes to high-school days.

The newly adopted plan calls for an extension to the elementary school day by 20 minutes, the middle-school day by 15 and a shift in the high-school day by five minutes in order to meet the state's 1,000-hour requirement. The new plan

will not take effect until next year.

Previously, the schools were meeting the required number of days, as opposed to the required number of hours, Pedersen said.

Pedersen's plan also recommended an additional 20 minutes to the contracts of teacher assistants, which raised a concern with board member Maryanne Rosenman.

"Are you going to ask that assistants get paid for extra minutes?" she asked. "Weren't they already getting paid?"

Pedersen answered the board member's concern by saying he would still like to add extra time so that the assistant teachers could receive more pay. Assistant teachers are paid on an hourly basis, and that base is defined by the state at seven.

"Assistants cannot work over the specified amount of time," Pedersen said.

Board member Gloria Faley worried that because high-school students were not getting any extra minutes, they would miss out on the minimum

requirement.

Pedersen said he had suggestions for the board, such as alternating the class schedule, to alleviate constant absences in certain classes.

"We can flip the schedule so a couple of courses don't get the brunt of students always missing class," he said. "We should revisit this and look at the things that we can do."

With the promise of flexibility in the proposal, the resolution was passed.

Initially, several plans were brought before the board, each of which varied in length and sequence. All of those were dropped for the new plan presented by Pedersen.

By adding time to the school day, the board hopes not only to meet state requirements, but to also prepare their students better and to combat missed time due to extracurricular activities.

This was the first change in school hours since 1993.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

LANDLORDS

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"Right now we're not after fine details," Conner said. "This plan is a basic co-organization of landlords and tenants for the first time in the history of Chapel Hill."

Carol-Ann Gernslade, a member of the Board of Realtors, said she was in favor of the proposal, because a rental licensing system would simply add another layer of bureaucracy.

"Laws that cover all these points are already on the books, and they are not enforced," she said. "Adding another law that's not enforced won't improve things."

Chapel Hill resident Estelle Mavery of Pritchard Avenue disagreed with the majority and said she favored a new licensing agreement. "You have to have a license to sell anything," she said. "If you're making money, you need to have a license."

Although many voiced concerns ranging from occupancy rates to the enforcement of the licensing system, most agreed on the proposal without making any changes.

The plan is being offered to the Town Council as a replacement for the rental licensing system that has been proposed in the town's Comprehensive Plan, which will be voted on later this month. The plan - which outlines the town's goals - will be implemented in the next

several years.

Carolyn Baucom, a local landlord, said the question of enforcement of the system lay in the hands of the people.

"We as a group - students, tenants and landlords - need to stay on the town's back about enforcement," she said.

Mills said Thursday's meeting was not about individual neighborhood concerns but about coming together as a group to discuss creating a more effective landlord-tenant system.

"This is about education, enforcement and improving the system we have already."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Dilbert



THE Daily Crossword

By Patrick McConville

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ocean bottom
 - 7 ADC
 - 11 Get-up-and-go
 - 14 Lake near Rome
 - 15 bene
 - 16 Tankard filler
 - 17 Sleep restlessly
 - 19 Actor Silver
 - 20 Needle case
 - 21 Football
 - 23 Sinkerball
 - 27 Satisfy
 - 28 Relating to a pelvic bone
 - 29 Pekoe, e.g.
 - 31 City or circle precursor
 - 32 Madcap
 - 33 Scrawny
 - 35 "Maria"
 - 36 Wager
 - 37 Give in to gravity
 - 38 Cause friction
 - 41 Mother-of-pearl sources
 - 44 Shine's partner?
 - 45 Sitcom pioneer Desi
 - 47 Operated
 - 48 Artist's subject
 - 49 Gridiron blitz
 - 51 And so forth
 - 53 Endure, as a storm
- DOWN**
- 1 Took chairs
 - 2 "Evil Woman" grp.
 - 3 6-pack mus-
 - 4 Standard salary
 - 5 Related on mother's side
 - 6 Coffee-break snack
 - 7 Hill worker?
 - 8 Thick fog
 - 9 Landing area
 - 10 Getting snarled
 - 11 Commuter's option
 - 12 Plaza Hotel girl
 - 13 Writer
 - 18 Despot
 - 22 Samoan currency
 - 23 Judy's daughter
 - 24 Norwegian king
 - 25 Treat lavishly
 - 26 Give the ax?
 - 30 Vote in (use a proxy)
 - 33 Sis, bro or cuz
 - 34 NATO cousin
 - 36 Rocket launchers
 - 39 Manipulator
 - 40 Contemporary of Boris and Lon
 - 42 Commanded,
 - 43 Dundee denial
 - 44 Took turns
 - 45 Water-carved gulch
 - 46 "Stand by Me" director
 - 48 Fixed
 - 50 Artful deception
 - 52 Housing unit
 - 54 Cooking meas.
 - 58 Draft letters
 - 59 Wynn and Begley
 - 60 August birth, usually
 - 61 Ex-QB Dawson



Charges Filed in School Shooting

Associated Press

MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Mich. - Prosecutors Thursday brought an involuntary manslaughter charge against a man they believe possessed the stolen gun later used by a 6-year-old boy to kill a classmate.

"We were not looking for scapegoats in this case; we're looking for justice for Kayla," said Genesee County Prosecutor

Arthur Busch.

Busch said investigators believe the .32-caliber semiautomatic gun used Tuesday to shoot 6-year-old Kayla Rolland had been left, apparently loaded, under Jamelle James' blankets in a bedroom at the house where the boy stayed.

Investigators also found a stolen 12-gauge shotgun and drugs at the house, the prosecutor said.

James, 19, was arraigned Thursday on the manslaughter charge, which carries a possible 15-year prison sentence. He simply replied "yes" when the judge asked whether he understood the charge and possible sentence.

Judge Richard L. Hughes set James' bond at \$100,000.

James made an obscene gesture toward news photographers as he was led out of the courtroom.

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