

# Schools Present Plans for Improvement

By ENYONAM KPEGLO  
Staff Writer

Wednesday marked the culmination of a three-day hearing process for all 14 of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools to present their plans for improving school safety, student productivity and all-around school performance.

The School Improvement Plan is the product of a two-year process that evaluated the schools' strengths and weaknesses.

Representatives from each school had 30 minutes to present their individual

plans to the school board and make clarifications.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education Chairwoman Elizabeth Carter said the plans had vastly improved from the previous year.

"They are documents that anyone can pick up and see what is going on in each individual school," she said. "They are user-friendly and easily interpreted."

Ginny Berg, principal of Frank Porter Graham Elementary School, said her school's plan was composed of four primary aspects.

"We are most concerned with differentiation in order to better meet the

needs of all students," she said. "Literacy, English as a Second Language, and safe schools are our additional areas of focus."

Culbreth Middle School Principal David Christenbury said his plan was the result of hard work and an inclusive process.

"We want to increase student achievement, promote communication for an involved climate and improve student organizational skills," he said. "We will look at our progress every year and make revisions if necessary."

Christenbury said he expected his plan to be approved and that he hoped

it would help his school move to another level.

"We have been a school of distinction for the last three years; now we want to reach a plateau of excellence, and the improvement plan will help us reach our goal," he said.

David Thaden, principal of East Chapel Hill High School, said it used a slightly different method of evaluating effectiveness.

"We surveyed past graduates to find out how well East Chapel Hill High School prepared them for college," he said. "We also want to focus on aiding the transition for ninth-graders and improving staff development resources."

School board member Roger Waldon added that an increasing number of school districts in the nation have started this type of site-based management.

"Each school had a team of constituents that examined the strengths and weaknesses and then decided on actions for improving education and productivity," he said.

Board member Teresa Williams said the schools had complete control over their specific plans.

"The school board can not rewrite or change a school's plan," she said. "We only look at the items and either approve or reject them."

# Local Movie Theater To Make May Debut

By AMY DOBSON  
Staff Writer

Students seeking a different type of movie-viewing experience from the standard theaters in Chapel Hill will soon have a new place to take a date.

The Lumina, the first film venue in town to offer stadium seating, is a four-theater cinema complex that will open its doors May 5 in the Southern Village community.

"The theater will be located in the village center," said owner-operator Bill Peebles. "It will provide quality entertainment for the families in the area."

Peebles said the 10,300-square foot theater would hold about 600 people, with 225 in its largest room and 125 in its three other rooms.

D.R. Bryan, the Southern Village developer who lured Peebles to build in the area, said the new theater would unite the 800-household Southern Village community and help local businesses.

"It enables our village center to be alive at night," he said. "Plus 60 percent of people who go out to a movie will eat or shop in the area."

Peebles, who paid his way through college as a projectionist, graduated from N.C. State University with a degree in electrical engineering. He said

he developed a skill in lighting that he would incorporate into The Lumina.

"Having worked in live-show theater for some time, I've learned some tricks (with light)," he said.

Aaron Bush, release manager at Movies at Timberlyne, 120 Banks Drive, said The Lumina did not pose a threat to his business because it might screen higher grossing films than his theater.

"Most theaters in the area cover different movies," he said. "There's a good chance that (The Lumina) won't carry the same movies as us."

Peebles said the Lumina would carry mainstream Hollywood films, along with an occasional independent release.

In celebration of its opening, The Lumina is planning a preview week starting May 5 with \$1.50 movies including "American Beauty," "The World is Not Enough," "My Dog Skip" and "Stuart Little."

University students with a valid UNC ONE Card can purchase tickets for \$4.50 excluding Friday and Saturday evenings.

"Most other theaters are operated by chains," Peebles said. "Here, there's a real person behind the theater, not some huge monstrous organization."

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

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## THE Daily Crossword

By James E. Buell

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<b>ACROSS</b>	57 Milk sugar	lyricist	cheer	Dutch cheese	60 Formerly, formerly
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45 Cigar dropping					
46 Piggybacked					
47 Best of the best					
49 Be obliged to					
51 Heaviest of the noble gases					
53 Forum VIP					

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