

City Schools Overcrowded; 2 More Needed, Board Says

By **THERESA CHEN**
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education's plans for a new elementary school to alleviate overcrowding still might not be enough to solve the problem, some officials say.

The board voted unanimously Thursday night to request funding from the Orange County Commissioners for construction of a ninth elementary school.

The school would be built on the Meadowmont property, donated by developer East West Partners. Meadowmont is a 435-acre mixed-use development site located on N.C. 54. The projected cost of the school's construction is \$14.8 million.

Commissioner Moses Carey said that although he realizes further facilities are needed, a decision had not yet been made on the funding request.

"I don't know (how the board will vote)," he said. "That's a decision the county commission will have to get together to make."

Although the establishment of ele-

mentary school number nine has been discussed for several years, the issue became more pressing when this year's enrollment numbers had more students than expected.

"I believe that our schools are at 5 percent over capacity as a whole," said Superintendent Neil Pedersen.

The new school would probably house 500 to 600 students upon its completion in 2003.

But the school system still will be overcrowded by nearly 100 students if growth trends continue, leading officials to examine the possibility of constructing a second school.

Pedersen said building two new schools would be more beneficial to the system than simply building one larger school.

The extra students at a significantly larger school would overload the teachers, he said.

Building two schools also would make it easier to redistrict the school zones because rezoning for both schools at once would be more efficient, Pedersen said.

School board member Roger Waldon

said the location of the ninth school would pose some extra redistricting challenges.

"Any new school would require that the attendance zones be redrawn," he said.

"This site creates some special challenges because there are two other elementary schools (Ephesus Road and Glenwood elementary schools) on the east side of town. Districts have to be drawn to balance across the existing schools."

The school board has not decided to request funding for a tenth school and a budget for the ninth school has not been approved, but board members are already looking toward the future.

Even with the ninth school, "We'll still have students beyond capacity without the (mobile classrooms)," said board member Teresa Williams.

"When you look at capacity, you don't include the mobiles because they're supposed to be temporary."

"It really points to the need for elementary school number 10."

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

Pedersen Receives Salary Boost

By **THERESA CHEN**
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education showed its approval of Superintendent Neil Pedersen by granting him both a bonus and a contract extension for his term.

At their Thursday meeting, board members decided Pedersen was worthy of another four years and an extra \$8,500. The bonus adds to Pedersen's yearly salary of \$128,766.

"Dr. Pedersen has given to this community and the school system some very dynamic leadership, and we just wanted to acknowledge that," said school board member Teresa Williams.

Pedersen's raise comes from the accomplishment of several goals mapped out by the school board last

year, including filling many administrative vacancies within the system and establishing programs promoting minority achievement.

"I think what (the extension) reflects is that the board believes that my goals were by and large met," Pedersen said.

Board member Roger Waldon explained that the reward is part of the board's annual evaluation of the superintendent's accomplishments.

"His performance during the year of the school board's stated goals justifies this level of bonus," he said.

But Pedersen said despite the high bonus level he received, the \$8,500 indicated that he had only partially fulfilled one of his goals, since he would have received \$9,000 if he had a perfect term.

That goal was related to the formation of a curriculum council to align and

define school district goals.

"The committee was formed and did meet, but all of their expectations were not met," Pedersen said. "But that committee will continue to meet and to make improvements."

Pedersen's original term would end in two years, but the new contract extends his term to 2004, two years past the original term.

Waldon said interaction between Pedersen and the board will focus now on establishing future plans.

"We're discussing what the goals for him should be this year," he said. "Next fall we'll evaluate his performance on these goals. The discussion Thursday is not finished."

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

CAMPUS

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A student programming organization

General Interest Meeting
Tuesday, September 12 @ 6:00pm
Union Room 210

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CAMPUS RECREATION UPDATE

Intramural Sports

Today: Entries open for Trek 'n Trot, Racquetball, Street Hockey

Entry Deadlines: Tomorrow for Napoleon Basketball and Grail Softball

Officials Clinic for anyone who would like to ref Grail Softball: Wednesday at 6pm in 304 WG.

Friday, Sept. 15th, Grail Softball Tournament

Saturday, Sept. 16th, Trek 'n Trot 10am

CONGRATULATIONS to Dan Shugars, a Dental Professor, for winning the national clydesdale championship in the over 50 age group at the National Triathlon Competition, Mrs. T's in Chicago.

Sport Clubs

Carolina Swim Club provides an environment promoting a healthy body and mind in which participants can maintain a desired level of competition while building relationships with others of similar interests. There are six practices a week and one meet a month, all of which are essentially optional- some club members are highly competitive, while others swim solely for recreation, and all swimmers are welcome! We are a year-round club, participate in service projects, and always have fun. If interested contact Kelly Jo Landreth at 914-0875, or email landreth@email.unc.edu

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Soccer (Heels)
1PM Finley Field, Sunday, Sept. 17th
Contact Caroline Hope at chope@email.unc.edu

Fitness & Aerobics

FREE Fitness Orientations Fitness Monitors, SRC employees, are also available by appointment for 20-30 minute Fitness Orientations (individual or group instruction) to the Cybex equipment and various cardiovascular machines. This service is available **FREE** to students and facility use card holders. Appointments may be made by signing up at the SRC Front Desk. **FREE** cycling classes offered, look in the campus recreation calendar for the schedule or come by the SRC for times and sign up.

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at the OEC

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Register A.S.A.P Trips are filling fast. call 962-4179

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