

Later School Days Proposed Low Pot Prices Attract Long Lines

The Student Governance Committee will vote Tuesday on the plan to shift school hours periodically.

By JAMILA VERNON
Staff Writer

Several parents of East Chapel Hill High School students say they are in favor of a proposal that would allow school to start at 10:30 a.m. once or twice a month, giving teachers more time to get organized.

A public forum Tuesday that focused on the issue included parents on the Student Governance Committee, which comprises faculty, teachers, students and 20 parents of students at the high school.

The school's altered scheduling system is part of a three-year plan to improve time management.

"Parents supported the plan," said David Thaden, principal of East Chapel Hill High School. "The absence of people (at the forum) was an indication of trust on the part of the parents."

Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education member Maryanne Rosenman said teacher needs are valid,

but she still has concerns about the proposed system.

To make up for the two hours missed on the allotted days, students are losing time in other areas, she said.

"The time to pass between class is being cut by one minute and lunchtime is being cut," Rosenman said. "If time is coming from classes, it's not equivalent. Kids aren't doing more if they have two minutes longer."

Rosenman also said she has concerns about students not having a sufficient lunch break if it is cut by 15 minutes and about how those who do not have transportation will get to school on late days.

But Thaden said the proposal was not taken lightly.

A subcommittee of the Student Governance Committee reviewed at least seven different scheduling permutations before deciding on the one proposed, he said.

"We're trying to provide teachers with some time to do work periodically," Thaden said.

"This program would periodically recapture time in the morning for teachers to do work on department work and staff development."

Although there are 20 teacher work-days in a year, Thaden said those days

are often not sufficient.

Teachers are forced to use some workdays for vacation, leaving only a few left over.

"But one problem will be with students arriving at campus before school starts," he said. "We have to make sure those kids who arrive early are supervised."

Chapel Hill High School Principal Mary Ann Hardebeck said her school will not follow the lead of its rival school and will continue a regular schedule.

The Student Governance Committee will vote on the proposed plan at its meeting Tuesday.

Rosenman said that if the plan is approved by the Student Governance Committee, it could be on the school board agenda as early as the third week in October.

Thaden said this proposed scheduling system is rare.

"A similar system was used at a high school in Texas," he said.

"No one in North Carolina is doing this, of my knowledge."

Aldesha Gore also contributed to this story.
The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

By LEAH COLE
Staff Writer

HILLSBOROUGH — About 800 people gathered in Hillsborough on Saturday morning to wait in line with numbered stickers on their chests.

When 8:30 a.m. arrived, the shoppers filed into the Vietri Warehouse Sale, the culmination of waiting all morning for a chance to buy imported Italian hand-crafted pottery at discounted prices.

The biannual sale allows Vietri the opportunity to sell one-of-a-kind samples, and discounted, overstocked and slightly flawed pieces to fans.

But the sale has not always been so big.

"The first sale was in the dining room and back porch of my personal home where we were operating our office our first year," Vietri co-owner Frances Gravelly said.

The story of this local shopping extravaganza begins in Italy in 1983 when sisters Frances and Susan Gravelly, co-founders of the company, went on vacation to Italy.

There, they fell in love with whimsical local dinnerware and began importing products for sale.

Today the business is located in a 30,000-square-foot warehouse in Hillsborough where the sale was held,

but Vietri products can be found at retailers nationwide.

Until a few years ago, people camped out in front of the warehouse prior to the event to ensure a good spot in line, but concerns about safety and sanitation forced the owners to end the tradition.

"We had to make a rule about (camping out)," Frances Gravelly said. "There were 20 to 30 tents with groups of people in the tents the last year before we had to stop them."

While the sale is demanding for Vietri employees, most tout the event as entertaining.

"It is a lot of hard work, but it is a lot of fun at the same time," said employee Clay Beck.

In addition to paying all employees and staff, Vietri donates a percentage of gross sales to local charities. The owners also auction the first two places in the sale's line to raise donations.

Money raised this year will help Wake Med buy a transport incubator.

While the first two places in line can be bought, the rest must be earned.

"We had to make a rule about (camping out). There were 20 to 30 tents ... the last year before we had to stop them."

FRANCES GRAVELLY
Vietri Co-founder

Mary Ann Allred earned the next place in line when she arrived at 3 p.m. Friday after driving from Oklahoma.

The Vietri staff welcomed Allred with wine in the parking lot where she stayed in her vehicle all night, meeting her and other arrivals to share a toast.

"We have a wonderful time just visiting with everybody," Allred said.

Along with Allred, many shoppers return for more after their first sale experience.

"We do have a huge numbers of repeaters," Susan Gravelly said. "It is almost like a silly cult."

But not all shoppers came willingly. Some are forced to come by their spouses.

"I'm just holding things," said Kirk Stevens of Wake Forest, whose wife dragged him to the sale. "I have no interest in this whatsoever. I have not seen a good deal yet, but what do I know?"

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

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The University and Towns IN BRIEF

Journalists to Discuss Media Race Relations

The UNC Institute of African-American Research is co-sponsoring a public symposium analyzing images of blacks in the media and the employment of blacks in the media field.

"Race in the Media" will bring together journalists, media experts and scholars at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh.

Those attending include Fred Sweets, deputy photo editor for The Associated Press; Angela Dodson, contributing editor for Essence magazine; Frank Del Olmo, director of Latino coverage for The Los Angeles Times; and others.

Will Sutton, president of the National Association of Black Journalists and deputy managing editor of The News & Observer, will moderate the discussions.

The event will kick off a three-day diversity conference held at the hotel. For more information, call 962-9001.

UNC Research Grant To Address Obesity

UNC researchers will receive a \$34 million grant to learn whether it's possible to help U.S. adolescent girls become more fit and avoid obesity-related health problems.

A briefing will be held in the Mayes Center. It will outline the research project based at UNC and involving six other major U.S. universities.

Campus Calendar

Today

7:30 p.m. — Jonathon Balcombe, associate director of Education and Animal Research Issues with the Humane Society of the United States, will be giving a lecture on the topic of "Alternatives to Dissection and Live-Animal Experimentation in Education."

Dr. Balcombe's lecture will be held in the Union Auditorium. His lecture will follow with a reception.

The event is free, and the public is welcome.

Tuesday

4 p.m. — Dr. Donald Haggis of the Department of Classics will present "From Minoan Palace to Greek City-state: The Archaeology of the Cretan Countryside" as part of the College Lights lecture series.

The event will take place in the George Watts Hill Alumni Center and is free and open to the public.

Parking is available in the Rams Club Parking Lot.

For more information, contact Sarah Madry of the Arts & Sciences Foundation at 962-6123 or sarahmadry@unc.edu.

7:30 p.m. — Lois Gibbs, environmental activist from Love Canal, N.Y., and founder of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice will speak in the Union Auditorium.

The event is free, and the public is welcome.

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