

Commissioners hear school funds requests

Both districts are growing quickly

BY SARAH FRIER
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

Representatives of the county's two school districts highlighted differences as they asked for money from the Orange County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday.

Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Superintendent Neil Pedersen boasted of high student achievement and new facilities.

Its \$6.8 million budget, if approved, will go towards the construction of Morris Grove Elementary School and several new student programs and services.

Although four of the Orange County school campuses were built in 1952 and need renovation, members of the Board of Education said they would rather use their proposed \$23.7 million budget to focus on classroom initiatives, such as closing the achievement gap and encouraging college enrollment.

"Orange County still loses between 90 and 100 students a year — that's way too many," Superintendent Patrick Rhodes said.

Commissioners Mike Nelson and Alice Gordon said they would

have preferred to see school renovations in the OCS plan.

"As soon as we can do it," Gordon said.

Both districts are experiencing explosive growth right now, CHCCS Vice Chairwoman Lisa Stuckey said.

CHCCS hosted 98 new Karen refugee students this year and expect more of the Burmese refugees next year.

It plans to spend \$100,244 on a newcomer and welcome center to help assimilate them.

The county schools expect more than 70 new students next year.

"It makes OCS what was once a small district into a medium district," Rhodes said.

As gas prices rise, both schools requested more money for fuel expenses.

CHCCS requested three times what Orange County Schools requested, which can be attributed to the cost of building a new school, said Steve Scroggs, assistant superintendent for support services.

One of the city schools' major concerns is having enough money to expand school technologies.

Board members want to be able to give high school teachers laptop computers through the dis-

"We could spend several times over what we've asked you for and not waste a dime."

AL HARTKOPF, OCS BOARD MEMBER

trict and use innovative teaching methods.

"We feel like we're behind the curve on that one," Pedersen said.

They also requested money to boost teachers' salaries. The district currently supplements teacher salaries 12 percent, which places it behind other districts.

"It's hard to retain the best people who may have other options," Pedersen said.

Nelson said he is concerned that OCS's lean budget would not move the district forward quickly enough.

And board member Al Hartkopf said renovating schools should have been a priority long ago.

"We could spend several times over what we've asked you for and not waste a dime of it," he said.

Discussion will continue, and neither budget will be approved until this summer.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

DEBATE

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The debate almost didn't happen due to disagreements about who should broadcast it.

Perdue had initially accepted an invitation from WTVD television, while Moore had accepted an invitation from WRAL.

On Monday morning the Perdue campaign announced that she would participate in a WRAL debate.

"We wanted to make sure that the debate happened," said Justin Guillory, spokesman for the Perdue campaign.

He added that Perdue's camp was surprised by the Moore's cam-

"We are going to work very hard not to raise tuition any more."

RICHARD MOORE, STATE TREASURER AND GOVERNATORIAL CANDIDATE

paign's unwillingness to change the debate venue after Moore had declared he would debate anywhere.

Perdue and Moore will debate again Thursday night.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

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UGANDA

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difficult to find artists whose primary mission focuses on social justice."

Kang also said he has already seen evidence that Carolina Performing Arts' efforts to promote awareness of global cultures and issues have had an effect on students.

"Many students decided to study abroad because of seeing (CPA's presentation of a Cambodian classical dance group), and we already

have a student group working with Uganda," he said.

Hefley said she also hopes those at tonight's performance will be able to see how music and dance can help relay her group's hopeful message.

"I have never known anyone who left a show and wasn't inspired," Hefley said.

"These young people are part of their own solution—they're writing a new future for themselves."

Contact the Arts Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

National and World News

FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Obama: McCain better than Bush

READING, Pa. (AP) — Barack Obama, who often argues that John McCain is the same as President Bush, said Sunday that the Republican presidential candidate would be an improvement over Bush's eight-year reign.

Before the positive comment, Obama had argued that the Republican offers a vision identical to that of the Bush administration. His backhanded compliment threatened to undercut efforts to portray the nominee-in-waiting as nothing more than an extension of Bush's unpopular tenure.

McCain courts Southern blacks

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate John McCain said Monday he knows it will be difficult to win over black voters who have supported Democrats for generations.

McCain chose to kick off his "It's Time for Action" tour in the region named for its black soil, which once produced bumper crops of cotton. These days, it is two-thirds black and struggling with higher unemployment than most of the rest of the state or the nation.

African nations rally in opposition to government actions in Zimbabwe

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Zimbabwe's regime got a taste of the international isolation critics say it deserves, with its neighbors uniting to block a shipment of Chinese arms to prevent them from being used against Robert Mugabe's opponents.

Union, church and human rights leaders across southern Africa rallied against allowing the Chinese freighter An Yue Jiang to dock at ports in any of landlocked Zimbabwe's neighbors, and they were bolstered by behind-the-scenes pressure from the United States.

In the end, governments usually unwilling to criticize Mugabe barred the ship at a time when Zimbabwe's government is being accused of cracking down on dissenters.

In Washington, the State Department said it had urged countries in southern Africa — notably South Africa, Mozambique, Angola and Namibia — not to allow the ship to dock or unload. It also asked the Chinese government to recall the vessel and not to make further weapons shipments to Zimbabwe until the postelection crisis is resolved.

Euro hits a record height on Tuesday

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — The euro roared to another record high Tuesday, crossing \$1.60 after a pair of ECB governors said high inflation may cause the bank to raise interest rates.

The euro rose as high as \$1.6018, more than a penny above the \$1.5916 it bought in New York late Monday. The euro has risen 20 cents against the dollar in just five months and 10 cents in just two months.

The dollar's slump is a boon for U.S. companies that rely on exports, but it's the bane of travelers as worldwide inflation rises, air fares climb and prices rise.

Indonesia sees torch protestors

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Torchbearers ran laps with the Olympic flame in front of an invitation-only crowd Tuesday after officials changed the relay route from Jakarta's streets to a sports stadium amid pressure from China to keep away demonstrators.

Police arrested several protestors and seized Tibetan flags and banners in the latest actions against a global relay to promote the Aug. 8-24 Olympics.

Criticism of China's human rights record has turned the relay into one of the most contentious in recent history.

FORUM

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line were admitted.

Gwaltney said he hoped to change the policy so that students in the line would be allowed in by tip-off, rather than the first timeout.

He also said he wanted to limit the wait time for students before games, suggesting that doors not open until two hours before game time.

Students also expressed concern about the Duke distribution, saying that while seniors are guaranteed tickets, they have no priority in

seating level.

The CAA will discuss possible changes to the policy with Gwaltney this summer and next semester.

"I'm sure there will be some subtle changes," Gwaltney said.

Although the CAA has no control over the number of seats students receive, Boone said the organization would do all it could to make the most of the available seats.

"If students want tickets, by God, we'll give them to them."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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| Furniture, clean lumber and appliances (NO mattresses) | Habitat for Humanity Call for pick up 403-8668 |
| Mixed paper (junk mail, notes, cereal boxes etc.) | Orange County Drop-off Sites or recycle at the curb |
| Batteries, CFL's, paint, hair spray, bug spray, cleaners, and other toxic materials | Hazardous Waste Collection Orange County Landfill Mon-Fri 10am-6pm Sat. 7:30am-noon |

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