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Teachers Given Another Option Following Emotion-Charged Meeting

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
Staff Writer

A fourth option has been presented to certified, non-vocational teachers as a result of a rather emotional session held Monday night as Warren County board of Education members received a request from the Warren County Chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE).

In a statement released early Tuesday morning by Superintendent Mike Williams, certified, non-vocational teachers were offered the option of making up as many as two workdays by working an extended day on June 9-11 and/or June 12 and/or Saturday, June 13.

According to the written statement, the work must be sched-

uled after 3:45 p.m., must be performed at school and must be the equivalent of an additional one-half day shift. "Employees exercising this option will be asked to complete and sign a statement of days worked during the extended days," the memorandum stated.

Because non-certified employees are restricted by federal wage and hour regulations, and vocational education teachers are barred by General Statute, they are excluded from the provisions of the newly created fourth option.

The new policy came on the heels of a statement presented by Ms. Kathy McLeod, NCAE president, concerning the organization's perception of a violation in contract terms by the extension of the school calendar for

teachers until Tuesday, June 16. The original contract and statutes had provided for the end of the school year on June 12. Because of inclement weather, several holidays and other available days had been reclaimed by the Board of Education as they sought to ensure the full 181-day instructional period.

According to Ms. McLeod, NCAE's position held that the contract had been broken. "These are not the thoughts of a few hot-headed individuals," she said, "but, there is support from many who have 30 years of experience in the classroom." Ms. McLeod reported that the NCAE attorney general had supported the contention that the two additional work days on June 15-16 were illegal in that the period

worked would extend over 10 calendar months, the terms of the original contract. "It is not that we don't want to live up to our contract," she said, "but we were not given a choice."

Emotional discourse among board members and members of the audience ensued surrounding the decision to close Warren County schools on Feb. 19-20, the impact of the existing three options for "working off" the last two teacher days of the school year, and a reduction of pay for those teachers not reporting for work on June 15-16.

Prior to the Tuesday morning change in policy, available options were as follows:

—Work June 15-16 and receive compensation for the full 10-month contract term;

—Take annual leave on June 15-16 and receive full compensation; and

—Receive a pro-rated reduction in salary without reporting for work on June 15-16 or using annual leave for those days.

Expressing the sentiments of other new teachers as well as those without annual leave, Ms. Artelia Covington noted that the existing policies in fact penalized teachers for something over which they had no control (days missed due to snow). "Why should we be penalized for an 'act of God' or for a decision in which we had no input?" she queried. Ms. Covington reported that Warren was the only county in the state in which the contract was being broken. She noted that

other teachers in the state had been given the option to work on weekends or evenings to satisfy the terms of the General Assembly stipulated contract.

Members of the audience commented that steps should be taken to avoid potential litigation by considering other options.

Superintendent Williams, in his Tuesday morning statement, thanked employees for their cooperation in the matter of inclement weather in January and February and the resultant extension of the school calendar. "As we close out another highly successful year, I appreciate your many contributions and wish for you an enjoyable, safe summer vacation."



Who could ask for anything more? Shade trees, bountiful forage and refreshing water contribute to this scene of "udder contentment" during one of the recent warm days. The waterhole in this pasture

in the Wise community will no doubt be a favorite hangout from now through the summer months. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

No Tax Increase Needed At Norlina To Balance Budget

No increase in the tax rate is proposed by Norlina's town board to support a proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, which is close to \$130 larger than the budget now in effect, according to Town Clerk Mae Gums.

The total budget last year was \$335,123, Mrs. Gums said, and commissioners are now looking at preliminary figures which total \$462,955 for the next fiscal year. Some \$109,000 of the increase is expected to come from the town's surplus funds, the interest on which in past years has equalled about half the amount collected in taxes, Mrs. Gums pointed out.

The figures, which the town clerk said probably will undergo some additional increase before the public hearing scheduled for June 22, are broken down as follows: general fund, \$169,245; water department, \$175,000; Powell Bill, \$113,010; and Revenue Sharing, \$5,700.

The town this fiscal year has operated on a budget which includes: general fund, \$143,085; water department, \$151,900; Powell Bill, \$25,128; and Revenue Sharing, \$15,010.

Norlina's current tax rate is 50 cents per \$100 valuation.

Warren Official Is Stepping Down

The end of the current fiscal year will signal the end of the 15-year tenure of a Warren County official.

Russell L. Currin, Warren County veteran's service officer, will retire from his post, effective July 1, a position he has held since Jan. 4, 1972. Duties of the position have included processing forms for the Veterans Administration as well as providing verbal advice and counseling.

According to County Manager Charles Worth, Currin's file is filled with letters of appreciation from survivors and relatives of veterans he has served. "He has been a very conscientious individual," Worth said, "and he will be missed."

Buck-Spring 4-H Camp Given \$7,500 Grant By Foundation

A second grant has been awarded to a county agency by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc. of Winston-Salem.

A grant of \$7,500 has been awarded to Buck Spring 4-H Camp. Notification was sent on May 22 to Richard E. Hunter, Jr., Warren County clerk of court and chairman of the board of directors for the camp. The award represents the fruit of a grant application and proposal sent on Jan. 30 by George Koonce, extension agent 4-H and co-chair of the project.

"We are really excited," said Glenn Woolard, extension agent, 4-H, "because the award gives us the flexibility to go ahead on the project."

According to Woolard, the grant will be used to supplement the \$10,000 appropriation made by Warren County for a picnic shelter in Phase I of the development. Other Phase I projects designated for portions of the grant include a section of road to the shelter and parking lot, a small parking lot adjacent to the historic area, a T-shaped water front area and renovations to the tenant house on the property. The renovated tenant house will be used as a classroom building and storage area.

If available funds are sufficient, workmen will complete the first section of the proposed nature trail. "About three-fourths of it has been cut already," Woolard said. The nature trail will provide a self-guided experience featuring brochures, identification posts and an interpretation of the environment. Workmen will also begin work on the softball and multipurpose court which will be used for basketball and volleyball.

Nelson and Harris Developers to date have cut the main entrance road which serves the camp and the Buck Springs and Macon's Landing subdivisions.

"We are especially grateful for the Z. Smith Reynolds' grant," Woolard said, "and we are also appreciative of the many services that have been provided by

area individuals and businesses." According to Woolard, Sonny Peoples of the Lake Gaston Pier Co. has agreed to provide a pier for the water front area; R. M. White of Norlina Water and Wells will donate a portion of well drilling work; the Snow Hill Ideal Club will paint one or two rooms on the interior of the tenant house on the property and the Warren County Jaycees will paint the exterior in July.

According to Richard Hunter, Henderson-based Vance Construction Co. has begun to rebuild the main house which was damaged by fire in 1976. The work is being done under the auspices of the Warren County Historical Commission. "Once that has been completed," he said, "the historical section will

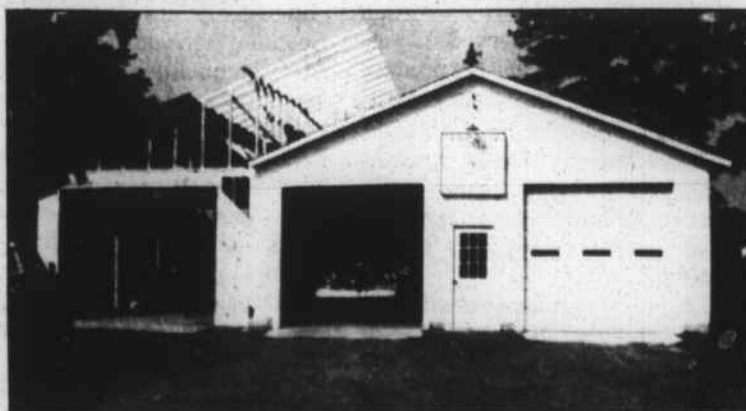
be completed—the main house, the smoke house and the corn crib."

Assistance for the 4-H camp facility has been received from external sources: the N. C. Forestry Service will donate a small parking lot adjacent to the historic area and Texas Gulf has agreed to donate all pipes for a roadway.

"We are so very glad that our application for assistance was approved," Koonce said. "If things are to be in place in time for our day camps in August, it is critical that we move ahead now," he added. "The Z. Smith Reynolds grant will help make that possible."

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation was established in 1936 as a

(Continued on page 9)



Expansion and improvements to two rural firehouses has been under way during recent months. In the upper photograph, an Afton-Elberon fireman takes his turn at putting the finishing touches on the exterior of the building following the addition of 900-square feet which includes a third truck bay and two baths. Work is also progressing on the addition of a third truck bay at the Arcola Rural Fire Department (lower photo). (Staff Photos by Howard Jones)

Deputies Recover \$40,000 In Goods

Goods valued in excess of \$40,000 have been recovered by the Warren County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Theodore Williams announced this week.

On Wednesday, June 3, a 1985 Ford 1820 tractor, valued at \$20,000 was discovered abandoned near a field in the Afton community. The vehicle, property of Liverman's Landscaping, a Virginia Beach, Va. firm, had been missing since February.

The vehicle was stored at the Warren County jail parking lot until Chesapeake officials were able to claim it on Saturday.

Warren officials continue to work with the Chesapeake Police in the investigation of two suspects.

Chief Deputy Bobby Bolton is the local investigating officer.

Filing Deadline Earlier

Political Pots Simmer In Towns In Warren

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

A number of elected officials in Warren County's three municipalities are expected to throw their names in the ring when the filing period for this year's municipal elections opens on July 3.

As a result of action by the General Assembly, candidates must file for office between noon July 3 and noon August 7. This is earlier than the filing period in previous years when candidates filed from mid-August to mid-September.

Election Day will fall on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

In Warrenton, Mayor B. G. White indicated he has not yet made up his mind whether to run for a fifth term. This year completes White's 30th year in town government, which included 22 years on the town board before serving as mayor. White has also been active in the regional council of governments.

Six of the town's commissioners, W. A. Miles, Eddie Clayton, Charles White, Bobby Edmonds, A. A. Wood and Ray Shearin, said they probably will run again for office in November. When questioned about reelection plans, Commissioner Phil Daniel said he needs to give the matter further thought before stating his intention.

Norlina Mayor Bill Perry has not decided whether to run again for the post he has held for 14 years.

Goods valued at \$20,590.39, which were stolen from the Lake Gaston area in July, 1982, were recovered in Loudoun County, Va. Deputy L. W. Newsome was the initial investigating officer.

Loudoun County detectives contacted Sgt. Lawrence Harrison on Sunday to report recovery of merchandise which included boat motors, gas lines, tools and jacks. Ninety-eight percent of the missing goods were found.

According to Sgt. Harrison, a suspect in Loudoun County will be interviewed by local officials at the end of this week. "We are real pleased to have recovered such a large amount of missing items," he said. "This represents good investigative work." Sheriff Williams concurred.

No other details were available at press time.

Commissioners Dwight Pearce and Walter Newman intend to seek seats on the town board again in November, but fellow board members Eleanor Hayes and William Leonard said they are still undecided about running for reelection. Commissioner James Vaughan, who is hospitalized at Wake Medical Center where he recently underwent back surgery, was not available for comment.

Also unavailable was Macon Mayor M. C. Clary. Macon's five commissioners stated intentions to seek to serve again on the board, including Carroll Harris, W. R. Shaw, Glenn Riggan, W. L. Edwards and Katherine Hilliard.

Telephone Work Is Under Way

Carolina Telephone recently began construction for replacing cables and relieving telephone facilities along U.S. 401 south of Warrenton, district commercial manager Richard R. Barnes, Jr. has announced.

Barnes said, "These facilities will replace deteriorated cables and provide additional lines to serve the communities of Afton and Elberon and the surrounding areas."

A recent development forecast indicates there will be 449 lines working by cutover scheduled for September 1987, and increasing to 657 lines by September 1987.