

Suspension Policy Of Warren Schools Come Under Attack

The policy of suspending students as a disciplinary measure—particularly at Warren County High School—came under attack by the parent of a WCHS student Monday night at a meeting of the Warren County Board of Education.

Ms. Jereann King called on board members to adopt a county-wide disciplinary policy "that would deal more realistically with students' problems" than the existing policy of barring a student from school.

Ms. King received support from Dr. Doris Terry-Williams, a board member who expressed her concern "about high school suspensions for things that are not serious enough to warrant suspension."

The discussion of discipline came well into the meeting and was added to the agenda of the regular board meeting at the last minute.

Board Chairman Yarbrough Williams, who told Ms. King he felt a set of rules should be sent home to parents, led the discussion in which board members pointed out that a student handbook supplied students at all schools contained the disciplinary practices followed at each school.

Ms. King, who said she felt that discipline was necessary but that suspension was not punishment, per se, argued that disciplinary policies should be drafted with input from students.

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Firefighters from the Ridgeway and Norlina fire departments are shown battling a fire in an upstairs bedroom of the old North home located on Rt. 1, Norlina. The blaze started Saturday around

12:30 p.m., but, due to the quick response of the departments, damage was limited to the bedroom and some minor water damage.

(Photo by Brenda Clarke)

Deputies Launch Probe Of Mailbox Vandalism

Rural mailboxes have been attractive targets for area vandals bent on mischief, Sheriff Theodore Williams said Tuesday.

The first case of property damage was reported on Feb. 10 by Otis Mark Richardson of Rt. 2, Norlina, who witnessed a vehicle repeatedly driving over his mailbox resulting in the bin's destruction.

According to the report taken by Det. R. A. Coleman, the

unidentified vehicle continued along RPR 1126 destroying two other mailboxes in its wake. The owners of those receptacles are Richardson's neighbor, Fred Richardson, and Jones Chapel Church. Damages to the boxes have been estimated at \$50 each.

The victim also reported that on Feb. 1, he had discovered that the window of the right-rear door of his 1979 Plymouth station wagon had been deliberately broken from its housing. The value of the broken window has been estimated at \$60.

The second case of mailbox vandalism—also of the hit-and-run variety—was reported on Feb. 11, Sheriff Williams said.

John Earl Alston, of Rt. 2, Norlina, reported that his investigation of a loud noise had led to the discovery that a vehicle had slammed into his mailbox located on RPR 1112. According to the report taken by Det. R. A. Coleman, the vehicle crossed the roadway, hit several crossties and backed out, before heading north on RPR 1112.

Witnesses to the crime also reported that the vehicle had been damaged on its right side and carried a tag numbered BSP5593. No other details were available at press time. Damages to the mailbox have been estimated at \$100.

Historic Home Spared By Work Of Six-Year-Old

Quick response from the Ridgeway and Norlina Volunteer Fire departments and actions of a six-year-old boy saved a home in the Ridgeway community which is listed in the state's historic register.

A house owned by William Brauer off SR 1107 on Rt. 1, Norlina, caught fire in an upstairs bedroom Saturday afternoon. The home is known as the old North home, Brauer said.

A girl visiting with Lilly Bell Reid, the house's occupant, allegedly poured gasoline into a heater because she said it was cold. Fumes from the gasoline were ignited by coals that had been left in the old tin heater.

The heater exploded after the girl had gone downstairs.

According to Brauer, a six-year-old boy in the house at the time of the fire ran to a neighbor's house and called for help. His immediate response probably saved the house, Brauer said.

Fire damage to the residence was limited to the upstairs bedroom, but Brauer indicated there was some water and smoke damage in other parts of the house.

He estimated the damage between \$2,000-\$3,000.

There were no injuries.

Over \$7,000 In Jewelry Taken From Warren Home

A Warren County woman has sustained a loss which exceeds \$10,000, following unauthorized entry into her Vicksboro community residence, Sheriff Theodore Williams said Tuesday.

According to the sheriff, Mrs. Hazel Robertson returned to her residence on Feb. 11 to find that the lock on the rear door of the

structure had been pried off. Reported missing were: \$7,000 in jewelry, included pieces containing pearl, diamond, jade, ruby and amethyst stones; a mink coat valued at \$1,600; a red coat valued at \$500; a GE microwave oven valued at \$250 and three AT&T telephones valued at \$150. Also reported missing was currency totaling \$800. Property damage was estimated at \$75. The total loss has been estimated at \$10,300, Sheriff Williams said.

Deputy W. T. Winston, who was the responding officer, was told by Mrs. Robertson that she had seen a red vehicle recently that seemed to be patrolling her locale. The driver of the vehicle would often follow her to the intersection there, before turning around and returning to his or her original location. Although an exact description of the vehicle is unavailable, it is reportedly a Chevrolet or a small Ford.

Persons with knowledge of this or of other unsolved crimes are asked to call the Warren County Sheriff's Department at 257-3456. All information given will be held in confidence, Sheriff Williams said.

Rare Coins Stolen From Local Residence

A Warren County man has reported the disappearance of a coin and rare currency collection, Sheriff Theodore Williams said this week.

According to the report taken by Sgt. Harold Seaman, William H. Evans on Feb. 10 returned to his Rt. 2, Warrenton residence, which is located near RPR 1609 and RPR 1600, to find that the door of the trailer had been pried open.

Reported missing were 28 rare \$2 bills and 24 silver dollars from the collection, as well as other bills and coins, all valued at \$300.

No additional information was available at press time.

Schools Is Entered, Goods Are Recovered

Northside School has again been the scene of a break-in and larceny, but this time the goods have been recovered, Sheriff Theodore Williams said Tuesday.

During routine patrol on Feb. 12 at 1 a.m., Deputy W. T. Winston and Deputy Ronnie Baskett discovered that a classroom window at Northside had been broken. The building had last been known to have been secure on Friday, Feb. 10.

Upon further investigation, the officers found hidden behind the main building one Apple 2E computer and printer, valued at \$2,500. Also retrieved from a trash bin was a GE AM/FM radio valued at \$35.

No additional details were available at press time.

Missing Driver Damages Shed

A storage shed belonging to an Afton man has been knocked from its foundation by a hit-and-run driver, Sheriff Theodore Williams said Tuesday.

According to the report taken by Deputy Ronnie Baskett, Joseph D. Andrews, of Rt. 2, Warrenton, on Feb. 12 reported that a white vehicle had struck his storage shed. The unidentified vehicle had been travelling along SR 1131, when the driver apparently lost control causing impact with the storage building. Damages to the structure have been estimated at \$1,000.

Major Industrial Project Planned At Soul City Site

A Washington-based investment group is making plans for a major industrial, commercial and residential development on 100 acres in the Soul City area.

Oliver W. Brown, president of the Broma Corp., announced this week that his company is putting together an industrial, commercial and residential development project for the Agricultural Investment Fund.

Brown said the project could result in 1,300 new jobs and construction of 85 new single-family homes in the Soul City area of Warren County.

The Agricultural Investment Fund has purchased some of the former Soul City property from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Soul City is the "new city" project, which received large sums of money from HUD in the 1970s.

Soul City was the brainchild of Floyd B. McKissick, a Durham civil rights activist, who hoped to build a new city in western Warren County that would have been organized and governed primarily by black citizens. McKissick had hoped to attract 50,000 people to live in Soul City by the end of this century.

About \$29 million was put into the Soul City project by HUD and other federal and state agencies between 1972 and 1979.

But, Soul City failed to attract enough private investment to succeed and federal financial support was withdrawn.

By the end of 1979, only 15 manufacturing jobs had been created in Soul City and 124 residents had been attracted to the new town.

Brown could provide no details on plans for the land purchased by the Agricultural Investment Fund in the Soul City area. He said his Broma Corp. has been under contract to the investment group only a few weeks.

Brown described the Agricultural Investment Fund as a consortium of Washington area investors, mostly black, who are interested in making money and in boosting Warren County and the surrounding area.

He said Broma Corp., which is based in Alexandria, Va. is ac-

ting as planning consultant and industrial recruiter for the investors.

Brown said his firm will be looking for "clean" industrial firms that can provide at least 100 jobs each. He said initial plans call for erecting some industrial buildings to attract companies.

"We feel we have the necessary ingredients to make the

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MRS. BEDDINGFIELD

Teacher Of Year Named Locally

Sarah Beddingfield, eighth grade Language Arts and Social Studies teacher at John Graham Middle School, has been named Warren County Teacher of the Year, James Jordan, assistant superintendent, announced this week.

Mrs. Beddingfield is currently in her fourth year of teaching at John Graham. Prior to coming to Warren County, she taught in middle schools in Cumberland County.

Mrs. Beddingfield is a graduate of the University of Alabama and holds a master's degree from Troy State in Alabama as well as reading certification from Southern Connecticut State. She lives in Warrenton and is married to Reverend Ed Beddingfield. They have two daughters, Shannon and Meghan.

Modernization Of Town's Bookkeeping System Is Being Explored By Warrenton Councilmen

Warrenton councilmen who are considering modernization of the town's bookkeeping system were told Monday night what roles a computer might play in upgrading the municipal system.

David Blount and Hank Phelps, officers of Brunswick Office Systems & Supply, presented a 55-minute briefing on computer generated municipal billing systems as town councilmen began their regular monthly meeting.

Blount, who serves on the Lawrenceville, Va. board of commissioners, told his Warren counterparts that "automating a municipality is a difficult job," but that his company had the expertise to get the job done.

Blount's company is one of several that Warrenton commissioners will look at before making any decision to improve the municipal billing system. Town Administrator Pete Vaughan reminded councilmen that companies in Greenville and Louisburg wanted an opportunity to make their sales pitch.

Mayor B. G. White, who presided over the Monday night session, appointed Commissioners Eddie Q. Clayton—who has a computerized system from the Brunswick company in operation at his business, Ray Shearin and Phil Daniel to a committee which will hear proposals and make a recommendation to the full board.

In a separate matter, Mayor White told board members that town officials have requested \$85,240 from the state's Small Urban Discretionary fund to repair and upgrade two streets in town.

If allocated, the state funds would be used to widen 1,000 feet of Warren Street as well as re-surface the street, which is now only 15 feet wide.

Also slated for improvement is Halifax Street from a spot where curbing and gutter now end to the town limit, a distance of some 616 feet. The street would be widened by two feet on each side, and curbing and gutter would be placed on each side.

Mayor White reported that all property owners affected by the proposed Halifax Street improvements had given their consent. He said no record of Warren Street rights-of-way had been found.

The mayor told councilmen that Division Engineer L. E. Stegall and State Highway Commissioner James M. Peden, Jr. had been briefed on Warrenton's application for the special funds, which cannot be used on streets maintained with Powell Bill Funds.

Councilmen balked at a proposal by Extension Director Russell King that the mobile trailer used in the summer by vegetable vendors be relocated from Front Street beside the Peter Davis Store to the rear of the U. S. Post Office on the municipal parking lot.

Although agreeing to meet with King to explore the matter further, commissioners did not appear to look with favor on the move. Mayor White said improvements were already being

made to the parking lot at the request of the Warrenton Merchants Association, and that he felt the addition of the trailer would not assist in these efforts.

Commissioner W. A. Miles expressed doubt that the terms of the lease with the John G. Williams estate would allow for placement of a trailer on the site.

The town did approve a recommendation of the Beautification Committee that the town enroll in the Carolina Power & Light tree program.

During committee reports given in the 90-minute session, Police Commissioner A. A. Wood reported that police officers, in addition to their other duties, had opened 19 locked vehicle doors for motorists during January. He also reported that two officers had been assigned intersection duty on Friday afternoons in an attempt to ease traffic congestion on Main Street.

Mayor White reported that as of Monday a total of \$131,431.69 in 1988 taxes had been collected.