

THE ZEBULON RECORD

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SAYS COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT

Forget Sentiments; Think of Children!

Superintendent Fred Smith told the group: "I implore you parents not to be carried away with expressions of sentimentality and the resistance to some change, but I implore you to go home and look your child straight in the face and say 'I know that I am doing everything I can to give you the tools of life.'"

Smith said he was concerned for the boys and girls when he was principal of Wakelon School. He said he never did anything to harm the children.

"There is no intent to harm a child; there is only intent to help a child," he said vehemently.

He brought out the fact that this is a new day and a new age in which we are living. He said Dr. L. M. Massey, a prominent Zebulon dentist, is not doing business in the same office that he did when he (Smith) came to Zebulon, nor is Ed Hales, who operates a general farm mercantile business, dispensing fertilizer from the same place.

"Progress is being made."

Smith continued: "I haven't ever said a small school couldn't be a good school, but it will take three times the amount of money to make it a good school as we are getting today to operate."

He declared that it doesn't increase his salary nor does it enhance his prestige to look toward bettering the opportunities for children.

"It's simply a basic responsibility that I have, a sworn duty that I have to try to offer educational leadership to point the way," he averred.

He pointed out the Wakelon School is the result of several consolidations.

"There are, yes, Mr. Finch, 44 names, outstanding people. And there will continue to be outstanding people who come out of this school. But you haven't said a word about the untold thousands of boys and girls who drop by the wayside here, who never finish school because the school curriculum did not fit their particular needs."

Attorney F. D. Finch, leader of the three school consolidation forces, reported he has 44 names of Wakelon students who have made outstanding records in colleges since leaving the local school.

"Pray show me today in this curriculum that we offer here

(Wakelon) where there is a salable skill offered a child," the Wake superintendent exploded.

He said not all children are college bound. Those, he continued, that are college bound can recoup their losses they suffered from an inadequate high school curriculum.

"Constantly the people who speak of the effectiveness of education use the criteria of success in college. This boy did all right, that boy did all right in college. But they never stop to think of the untold thousands who never get through school.

"Go to your files, gentlemen, and bring those people out and talk to them. They come to my office almost daily and say: 'How can I get a high school diploma? How can I get an education?' I say: 'Son, you can't. Daughter, you can't. It's too late.'"

Smith, in an impassioned plea, said: "Please, please, not for my sake, please understand there is no benefit for me except the satisfaction of knowing that your children are getting the very best we can offer in educational facilities."

Dentist Prefers Site on Bypass

Dr. L. M. Massey, Zebulon dentist, said: "I think, looking at the Wakelon School area, its size and its number of pupils, it would indicate that Wakelon should be given some consideration where it should go."

"We have a beautiful campus but not ample buildings. I helped dig the ditches to drain the swamp here."

"I think, looking at the Wakelon School area, its size and its number of pupils, seemingly, to me, the history of it and the present condition of it, it would indicate that Wakelon should be given some consideration where it should go," the dentist said.

"I am sure that consolidation will offer a great deal of advantages and I am sure also there could be a great deal of disadvantages," he said.

Dr. Massey has indicated that he favors a consolidated school located on the bypass.

Four-School Consolidation Issue Produces Lively Meeting Here

FORMER MAYOR SPEAKS CALMLY

Don't Move School

An ex-mayor of Zebulon and a prominent hardware business owner told the consolidation meeting last Thursday night that he is against moving Wakelon School anywhere.

"The people who have spoken here tonight seem to say that consolidation is all right, but I am on the other side of the fence. I am not in favor of any consolidation which will make Wakelon School move from here.

Debnam pointed out that Wakelon is the only school under discussion—the others are Rolesville, Wendell and Knightdale—which is accredited. The high school was accredited six years ago and the elementary two years ago.

"We have a good school. I know it's not the answer to every educational problem in this community and neither would a consolidated school be. We have an interest in our school here and I think it takes an interest to make a school go."

Debnam cited an example of the attendance of a Raleigh school of 2,000 students with only 100 parents attending its PTA. He said he had been to many Wakelon PTA meetings and he has never seen fewer than 100 parents present.

He said the Raleigh school has "sort of been taken away from the people."

"If a vote will be taken tonight, and I hope it will, Mr. Whitley, we'll see how many people are in favor of staying right here at Wakelon School and pleading for the support of the County Board and the continued support of the people to make this a good school, a better school than it already is."

Wakelon Band Concert Tonight

Wakelon Senior and Cadet bands will give a concert tonight (Thursday) at 8 o'clock in the school auditorium, Mrs. Frances Hilburn, director-instructor, has announced.

Sixty members of the band will present selections ranging from the classics to Dixieland.

Proceeds from the concert will help finance transportation expenses of the Wakelon band to the Azalea Festival in Wilmington.

Tickets to the concert will be on sale at the door for \$1.00.

The program for the Cadet band is: United Nations March by King, Hansel and Gretel Overture by Humperdinck, Pacific Grandeur Overture by Olivadoti and Jubilee (a medley of spirituals), arranged by Leroy Jackson.

The senior band program is: Coast Guard's March by King, Komm Susser Tod by Bach, An Occasional Suite by Handel, Terzetto by Baccherini, Air for Band by Frank Erickson, Perpetual Motion by Carl Bohm, Cuban Capers by Kinyon, and Dixieland Jam-boree by Warrington.

The Terzetto number will be performed on wood winds played by Celia Hales, Buddy Broughton and Vicky Tart.

With an impassioned plea, the tall, slightly stooped young father continued: "If consolidation comes after we take this vote, I think, Mr. Whitley, you will find that the people want the school to stay here. And if consolidation comes, I think it will be forced upon us and we will not be asking for it."

Debnam was given thunderous applause that lasted minutes for his speech.

Candidate Clarifies Stand on Question

Zebulon Attorney Ferd Davis, seeking Democratic nomination to the Wake County Board of Education to succeed C. V. Whitley, who has announced that he will not seek reelection, explained his position with respect to consolidation and site.

"As far as I am concerned there are a great many agonizing considerations when it comes to talking about a school consolidation, and any decision that anybody makes is one that necessarily involves emotion and intellect. And sometimes in cases of that kind it is hard to decide when emotions leave off and intellect takes over.

"But because of the number of problems, such as drop-outs and the need for broader curriculums and utilization of libraries, laboratories, I am presently of the opinion that there are enough problems presented that up to now consolidation appears about the only answer.

"And I will say further, that I think that if it came to a choice between consolidation and site, consolidation is the more important question. And that does not mean for one minute that I don't think site isn't an important question.

"I believe we have a good school, and please remember this: when you ask a person to give up a present benefit for a possible or even a probable future gain you are asking that person to do essentially an unselfish act."

Davis is a former member of the local school committee. He has practiced law here since 1953.

Mayor Says Rolesville School Given Too Much Consideration

"From the very beginning the idea to consolidate the four schools of Rolesville, Knightdale, Wendell and Wakelon was wrong," Mayor Ed Hales shot at the audience last Thursday night.

"Rolesville is in the area of Wake Forest and Millbrook. Wendell, Knightdale and Wakelon are in a different area," he said.

The popular mayor asked the question that if Wake Forest doesn't gain students from the move to consolidate what is to become of that high school.

"It is a matter of time until

Words Flow Freely As School Patrons Give Their Views

Chairman Wake County Board of Education C. V. Whitley stated emphatically last Thursday night the Robertson pond area has not been selected as a site for the consolidated school to be built for the eastern part of the county.

"We haven't designated the Robertson pond area," Whitley said adamantly in answer to that question. "Nobody has. It was just a suggestion."

The hassle over school consolidation and site location continued last week when a group of Wakelon School District patrons and interested citizens met with the Wake County Board of Education.

The discussion, lasting two and one-half hours, was held in the high school auditorium with an estimated 300 persons present.

Some school patrons are still irate, others luke warm, and others I-don't-care over the proposed plan of the Board of Education to consolidate Wakelon with Rolesville, Wendell and Knightdale schools.

The Board has adopted a resolution of intent to consolidate, Whitley told the group.

"The Board has tried to be as fair about consolidating as possible. We (the Board) realized the importance of the thing two years ago. However, we had thought about the possibility of consolidation even before then, but we were kind of hesitant with the matter."

Whitley said the laws of the State say that such action must be taken before the people of the communities involved before consolidation is made.

"That's what we wanted to do, anyway, whether or not it's a law," he added.

Since the Board revealed that (Continued on Page 3)

Open Installation

Wakefield-Zebulon Chapter Order of the Eastern Star will hold an open installation of its 1962 officers Saturday night at the Zebulon Masonic Hall. The public is invited to attend the proceeding which gets underway at 8 o'clock.

Local Attorney Expresses Concern about Economy

Foster D. Finch, leader of the opposition forces against consolidation on a site in the Bethany area, had Chairman Whitley to clarify whether the declaration of intent to consolidate included Wake Forest School.

Whitley said it did not. He said it only includes the four schools of Rolesville, Knightdale, Wendell and Wakelon.

"To begin with the original plans were to consolidate the four schools," Finch said. "We finally decided after much discussion and several meetings that it might be a good idea to have another survey made that included the sixth school."

Finch then read a portion of the last report made by the School Planning Committee: "The size of the territory embracing the five-school district is such that study of transportation indicates that it

would not be feasible to plan for one high school but two schools could adequately serve the school area without transportation difficulty."

Finch pointed out that that report was a contrast to the first report. The first report indicated one school would be adequate.

"Ladies and gentlemen: Wake Forest needs Rolesville, Rolesville needs Wake Forest. We certainly don't object to anyone—Rolesville or Knightdale—coming to Wakelon. We are glad to have them."

He pointed out, however that Rolesville is only six miles from Wake Forest. "Only six miles, ladies and gentlemen, six miles from one campus to the other, according to this very report."

He said: "We are strangling a high school (Wake Forest) and we are failing to use the facilities (Continued on Page 3)

Knightdale will find herself in the same position as Garner and Cary," he pointed out.

Hales said that another high school will be needed in the Knightdale area in the years ahead.

"If we are to consolidate, it doesn't make sense to build a high school where the people are not living. Today 76 per cent of the people in the corporate city limits of the Rolesville, Knightdale, Wendell, Zebulon area live in the Wendell-Zebulon area. If we con- (Continued on Page 3)