

# Board votes to change junior highs to middle schools

By LEIGH ANN MCDONALD  
Staff Writer

The six members of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education voted unanimously at a board meeting Monday night to begin converting junior high schools into middle schools.

The board approved the conver-

sion after completing a six-month study on the effectiveness of reorganizing the school system.

"It is probably realistic to think we will have middle schools three to five years down the road," said Michael Radz, assistant superintendent for instruction.

The new school organization will

include kindergarten through fifth grade in elementary schools. Middle schools will include sixth through eighth grades, and high school will include the ninth grade.

Junior high schools have become miniature versions of high schools by attempting to fit students into social and extracurricular programs similar to high schools, Radz said. The middle school is a more transitional program, he said.

The option of creating middle schools arose last September after the Long Range Facilities Committee members asked the board if they should make plans for middle school or junior high school organization, Radz said.

The committee developed two options. The cost of providing facilities for the existing school system is estimated at \$16 million,

Radz said. He estimated the cost of a middle school organization at \$19.5 million.

Board member Bonnie Knoke said the higher cost is a result of the increasing number of students in high school, where facilities cost more than they do in elementary and middle schools, she said.

"I have been impressed with the enthusiasm concerned with the budgeting of the middle schools. We have to be able to make the change and do it well," said board member Carolyn Horn.

Board member Phyllis Lotchin said she was concerned that conversion to middle schools would eliminate team sports competition among schools.

"I feel that sports teams are the one place where black and white students get to know each other, and

the figure of a coach is important for this age group," Lotchin said. "I really am not personally willing to give up that asset."

Lotchin also said she was concerned about the future of junior high school honors programs after the conversion to middle schools.

"I would hate to lose the honors program in the middle schools," she said. "I think there would be a lot of parent unhappiness if that happened."

Lotchin said she would vote for

the middle schools, although she has concerns about the reorganization.

"I can't say that I feel for sure that moving the ninth grade to the high school is a good move," she said. "I do feel that it is a good move for the sixth grade into the middle school. We'll just cross both our fingers."

Administrative Officer Henrietta Huffines said planning and staff development for the conversion would begin immediately.

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## Senior beauty dazzles Durham, wins pageant

By KRISTEN GARDNER  
Staff Writer

UNC senior Lynne Surratt of Denton was crowned Miss Durham-Orange County Saturday night during a pageant in Durham, winning a \$1,000 scholarship and a travel and wardrobe allowance.

The pageant, sponsored by the Durham-Orange County Pageant Association, is a preliminary to the Miss North Carolina Pageant and to the Miss America Pageant.

"On behalf of the association, I'd like to say we're glad she won," said Jai Harrelson, president of the association. "We think she's going to be a great representative for us, and do well in the Miss North Carolina Pageant."

The pageant's judges based their decisions on swimsuit, evening gown and talent competitions, as well as a personal interview, he said.

Surratt also won the talent competition with a jazz dance to the selection "Let Me Dance for You" from "A Chorus Line." Scores in the talent competition made up 50

percent of the contestants' total score.

Surratt said she entered the competition because it would give her a chance to continue her dance training and provide an opportunity to perform. She began to study dance during her senior year at the North Carolina School of the Arts.

"It (the pageant) gave me a chance for personal growth," Surratt said. She said the pageant also helped her to evaluate and improve her communication and interview skills.

Surratt said she would use the scholarship money to continue her nursing education. She will graduate from UNC in May.

She plans to use the same dance in the talent competition for Miss North Carolina. "I'm just going to work really hard to improve and perfect the dance, not change it," she said.

Surratt said she was reluctant to predict her chances at the pageant in June. "I just know there are 48 girls coming into it who have worked really hard."

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