

Parents Speak Out At Hearing Monday

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hearing "there are advantages and disadvantages" with larger schools. Stern, who said his high school graduation class had just 11 students, acknowledged there was more opportunity for leadership development and more chances for participation in extracurricular activities at smaller schools.

But he added "it's more difficult and expensive to bring enrichment into the program" in smaller schools.

Stern admitted he had "mixed feelings" about longer bus rides for the children.

"That's something that should be considered," Stern said.

Bill Whitten of Hot Springs, however, maintained that Hot Springs would be the perfect place for a consolidated elementary school for a number of reasons.

"We have all the advantages of bigger towns, such as city water and sewer facilities, ample land for new school construction and parking, safe loading and unloading areas for school buses, postal and banking services, police protection, easy access to medical and ambulance services and a new road in the process of being built from the Tennessee state line to connect with the Laurel River area," Whitten said.

Another Hot Springs resident, Jerry Parker, said the consolidation proposal would prevent split classes. Parker also disputed claims that bus

rides would be longer for Spring Creek children if they attended Hot Springs' school.

Ruth Wilds of the Laurel community said she favored the consolidation plan, which calls for the consolidation of all grades 6 to 8 in the county into one middle school, "...if it will be better for the children."

Phillip Franklin of Laurel, though, said it would be "child abuse" to bus children farther and said he would support parents' bringing suit against the board of education.

"I'm opposed for it 100 percent," Franklin said. "I'm against this merger. It's not fair to haul these children a long way."

Nancy Gunter, also of Laurel, said she favored the proposal if it meant improved conditions at the school.

Mary Gentry, of Laurel, also was behind the proposal.

Ken Hunter of Spring Creek said residents in his community are "independent as hell" and that the board needs to "sit down and talk to us...put all the trash aside and see if we can't make out something for everybody."

Ada Willett, of Spring Creek, said one of her sons suffered headaches, which she attributed to long bus rides to school, while being bused to Marshall from Spring Creek. When he graduated, he quit having headaches, she said.

Sharon Barnett, another Spring Creek resident, said big schools are concerned with time schedules, not students.

And Peggy Sawyer, whose legally blind daughter attends Spring Creek school, reminded the board that "bigger is not always better." She said her daughter would not have the opportunity at a larger school to participate in sports because of her disability.

At a larger school, she said "...the weak are left behind...there's no time to worry about them."

Brenda Lusk, of Spring Creek, said her daughter's grades went down when she attended a large school. Her daughter became ill and hated school, she said.

Mike Rathbone and Renee Willet, both of Spring Creek, also opposed the plan because of the increased bus travel time.

Lionel Filiss, who sends his children to Mars Hill, warned the board about increasing bus travel time for students.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," Filiss said. "You will have a revolt on your hands and you people will really be in trouble."

"School is ridiculous," he said. "You should learn to read and write and count your money. Anything else is a farce. There are a lot of people opposed to this" consolidation.

Jake Grigg, who lives in Upper Laurel, said he remembered when the county high schools were consolidated into one school. He also remembered the bitterness that came with it, he said.

"Mars Hill became divided and some are still not over it," Grigg said. "Let's come together as peacemakers and pull together."

Recycling Day Set

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draising drives. Service organizations in Asheville and Hendersonville raise hundreds of dollars each month by collecting newspapers and taking them to a recycling business.

"Convenience is a key in recycling," Wilson said. "Most people are willing to separate materials to be recycled if it is convenient for them to do so."

Recycling consists of three phases. First, materials must be separated at the source — such as at home, work or school.

Then materials must be transported to the purchaser. This may be a glass company like Ball Glass in Asheville or a paper company like Asheville Waste Paper Company.

It could also be a materials broker who services as a middle man between buyers and sellers.

Finally, the material is re-used and transformed into either a similar product or perhaps one very different from the original, Wilson said.

Some studies, she said, estimate that up to 80 percent of our national trash could be recycled.

"For a substantial amount of trash to be recycled in an area," Wilson said, "people's habits must change."

"This can take time, but once recycling gets started it can have a snowball effect."

Joel Michael Cox, son of Randy and Lisa Cox of Weaverville, was born at the home Monday at 4:35 a.m. and weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and was 22 inches long.

Golf Tournney Raises Funds

At the monthly covered dish dinner meeting of the Hospice of Madison volunteers, John Haney, co-chairman of the Wolf Laurel Benefit Golf Tournament of 1988, presented Hospice of Madison a check for \$11,500.

This money was raised through the efforts of the people of Madison County and Memorial Mission Hospital Foundation. The residents of Wolf Laurel provided the facilities and leadership, without which this money would not have been forthcoming.

Each year Memorial Mission Hospital Foundation and Hospice of Madison supporters hold a benefit

Golf Tournament at Wolf Laurel.

The proceeds are divided between the Oncology Unit at Memorial Mission Hospital and Hospice of Madison.

The share received by Hospice of Madison assures hospice patients that "special kind of caring" for which Hospice is known.

The committee for the 1989 Benefit is already at work making plans for a bigger and better event next year.

Guests at the meeting included members of the Wolf Laurel Benefit Committee, Mrs. Hal Carter and her

daughter Mrs. Samuel Reese. Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Reese have donated medical equipment as the basis for lending closet. This equipment will be available for hospice patients.

This closet is located in the Mars Hill Baptist Church and is named in honor of Mrs. Carter's husband, Mr. Hal Carter, who was a Hospice of Madison patient.

Adult Literacy Program

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each week, she said. The program is privately funded through the Kenan Foundation, which started the program in Kentucky.

The program will offer free breakfast and lunch, free transportation, adult education classes, an opportunity to earn a GED, parenting classes, pre-school programs for the children, and improved job oppor-

tunities for adults.

Space is limited, Aylward said. Mildred Shelton, who recently earned her GED, and Pat Edwards, will be assisting Aylward with the classes.

For more information call Sidney Harrison at Walnut Elementary School at 649-2636 or Louise Hart at 649-2978.

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