

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Duplin County Schools Seek To Fill Superintendent Position

Administrative personnel changes will mark the early portion of the Duplin County 1981-82 school year.

The board of education has begun seeking candidates for the superintendent's position. The unexpected death of long-time Supt. C.H. Yelverton last month led to appointment of L.S. Guy as acting superintendent.

Guy has been associate superintendent in charge of personnel.

Other administrative changes will involve principals of three schools.

Charles Slemenda will be principal of the Wallace-Rose

Hill High School, succeeding Neal Carlton who retired after holding the position 30 years. Slemenda has been principal of the Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School for the last eight years.

New principal of the Rose Hill-Magnolia school will be Benjamin Matthews. He is coming from Campbell College where he has been a professor in the department of education.

Thomasine Kennedy will succeed L.J. Sutton as principal of Chinquapin School No. 2. Sutton retired after 34 years with the Duplin County

school system. Ms. Kennedy has been a teacher in East Duplin High School at Beulaville for 12 years.

Guy said approximately 8,600 students are expected to enroll in Duplin schools this fall. A kindergarten enrollment of 575 pupils is expected, 30 fewer than last year, portending a gradual reduction in future enrollment of the upper grades.

The system will employ 450 teachers and 75 aides in reading in kindergarten through third grade.

Teachers will report to schools Aug. 20. Drivers of

the system's 137 school buses will pick up their buses Aug. 25 from the school garage. Student orientation is scheduled for Aug. 27 with classes meeting for the first time Aug. 31.

The system has four high schools (East Duplin, North Duplin near Calypso, Wallace-Rose Hill at Teachey and James Kenan between Warsaw and Kenansville on N.C. 24), four junior high schools and nine elementary schools. All but Beulaville Elementary, B.F. Grady (elementary) north of Beulaville and Chinquapin School No. 1 are airconditioned.



Look at the size of those melons! Walter Herring, who lives just outside Warsaw, grows watermelons for eating, not for prize showings. But quite a show they make. According to Herring, each of these watermelons weigh

113 pounds. Last year, Herring grew 1,000 melons, the smallest weighing 50 pounds. Herring said he produced these two 113 pounders by cross-pollination...and, "have flavor just as good as regular size melons."

Duplin County School Board Raises Lunch Prices

The Duplin County Board of Education increased student school lunch prices an average of 10 cents for the coming academic year at its meeting Monday night.

The new lunch fees schedule for students will be 45 cents for breakfast, up from 35 cents last year; 70 cents for lunch for elementary students, up from 60 cents; and 75 cents for junior and senior high school students, up from 65 cents last year.

Adults will be charged 65 cents for breakfast and \$1.20 for lunch, both up five cents from last year. Shelby Kilpatrick, lunchroom supervisor, reported 2,292 students or 29 percent ate breakfast at the schools last year, a decrease of 1 percent from the preceding year. Of the total, 270 or 12 percent, paid the full price; 255 or 11 percent received breakfast at a reduced price of 10 cents; and 1,767 or 77 percent, received breakfasts free.

For lunch, 6,713 or 84 percent of the average daily attendance participated with 2,425 or 36 percent paying full price, 698 or 10 percent paying 20 cents and 3,590 or 54 percent paying nothing.

Mrs. Kilpatrick said a food choice will be offered elementary students during the coming year. They may choose from five items - taking a minimum of three items. She said this has been done in the high and junior high schools and has reduced waste considerably.

She proposed providing some breakfast items in the six schools not having this service in the past. Those schools are James Kenan, Wallace-Rose Hill, North Duplin and East Duplin high schools, Charity Middle and Beulaville elementary schools.

The board rejected the proposal. The reason breakfast has not been served in these schools is the routing of buses does not allow students time for breakfast.

Assistant Principal Gary Sanderson reported on reading and mathematics tests for grades one and two and reading, mathematics and language tests in grades three, six and nine.

The first grade reading score was 1.7 (meaning at a level of the grade plus seven months), compared with a state average of 1.8 and national of 1.7. The first grade mathematics score was

2.3 compared with the 2.3 state average and 1.7 national.

The second grade reading score was 2.6 compared with 3.3 for the state and 2.7 for the national and the mathematics score, 3.4 compared with 3.4 for the state and 2.7 for the nation.

Third graders scored 3.7 in reading compared with 3.9 for the state and 3.7 for the national average. The language score was 4.4 compared with 4.3 for the state and 3.7 for the national average. The mathematics score was 4.2 compared with 4.0 for the state and 3.7 for the nation.

Sixth graders in Duplin scored 6.8 in reading, compared with 7.0 for the state and 6.7 for the nation. In language they scored 7.6 compared with 8.0 for the state and 6.7 for the nation. In mathematics they scored 7.0 compared with 7.3 for the state and 6.7 for the nation.

Ninth graders scored 8.8 in reading compared with 9.8 for the state and 9.7 for the nation. In language the county and state scored 10.0 and the nation 9.7. In mathematics the county scored 9.1 compared with 9.9 for the

state and 9.7 for the nation.

Board Member Patricia Broadrick reported a strong correlation between excessive absenteeism and failure, saying 260 students, about 60 percent of the 443 students in grades nine-12 who were absent more than 25 days during the past school year, failed in one or more courses. The 1,724 high school students absent less than 25 days had no failures.

The board established an absentee policy for the coming year that will require a student to present an excuse from parents or guardians upon return to school after being absent one or more days. After a student is absent seven days, parents will be notified that eight more absences will result in failure in the courses involved. After 16 absences, parents will be notified the student has failed in the courses involved.

The board approved a contract with Mount Olive Junior College allowing it to play its basketball games in the North Duplin High School gymnasium whenever it doesn't interfere with the high school's activities for a fee of \$2,000 for the season.

Asparagus, A New Opportunity For Duplin County

Well, actually asparagus isn't really new because many a back-yard gardener has been snipping away at the little spears for years. What is new is the opportunity for commercial growers to get in on the action by growing asparagus under contract. The demand for asparagus continues to increase while major asparagus producing areas have not been able to keep pace with the demand.

The potential for aspara-

gus production in Duplin and surrounding counties is excellent says Ken Teeter, Asst. Agricultural Extension Agent, Duplin County. Any well drained soil will produce Asparagus, although deep fertile sandy loams, having a slightly acid reaction are preferred.

Teeter says that asparagus production will fit well into our local production scheme since it is harvested from March to mid-May. Two of the most popular advantages of producing asparagus Teeter says, is the early

spring cash flow to the growers and better labor utilization during this time of year.

Many of you may have already heard about Asparagus and its potential in eastern North Carolina, but may still have questions about its production and marketing. On August 26, 1981 "Asparagus production" will be the topic of a program and tour sponsored by the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service and Joan of Arc, Company in Turkey, North Carolina. If

you have ever wondered about asparagus, now is the time to quit wondering and find out first hand. Interested individuals should meet at Carrols of Warsaw's Parking Lot at 5:30 P.M., at which time we will proceed to visit several asparagus plantings and end up with a presentation on "Asparagus Production" for more information, contact, Duplin County Agricultural Extension Service Kenneth M. Teeter 296-1996 in Kenansville.

Kenansville Board Annexes Two Tracts

The Kenansville town board Monday night annexed two tracts on the east side of town following a public hearing at which no opposition developed.

One of the areas, known as the Hazel Scott property, includes two acres on the north side of N.C. 24 on the east side of the town. A 30-acre area, known as the Williamson-Precythe property, is located on N.C. 50, also on the east side of the town. Four homes are included in the annexation area. The city

is erecting an elevated water tank on a portion of the 30-acre tract.

The city employee health insurance policy was switched to Durham Life Insurance Co. from Blue Cross-Blue Shield. The city had been paying \$39.32 per month per employee. Premium for the new policy will be \$33.50 per month per employee. The new policy provides no limit on payment of room rates for semi-private hospital rooms while the

former policy limited such payment to \$65 per day. The new policy also includes a \$7,500 life insurance policy for each employee. The former policy lacked this feature, according to Mayor Douglas Judge.

The board agreed to send Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville a formal notice to move a mobile dwelling unit from its grounds. The unit violates the town zoning ordinance in its present location.

The board also agreed to

close town office two days a month to allow Clerk Mary Ann Jenkins to use the Duplin County computer in the courthouse for town tax and water billings and accounts receivable preparation.

Judge announced cable television franchise bids will be opened at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 15 in the courtroom of the courthouse.

Applicants for town maintenance department supervisor were interviewed at 7 p.m. Aug. 10.

A delegation of farmers appeared before the Duplin County Board of Commissioners Monday to ask that a doe hunting season be authorized by the board for this fall in the county.

At its last meeting the board voted against allowing a doe hunting season. Duplin is the only one of the state's 100 counties in which the county board determines whether a doe hunting can be held. The N.C. Wildlife Commission makes the decision for all other counties.

Many hunters fear doe hunting seasons will decrease the deer population to the point successful hunting would become difficult.

Many farmers, particularly in counties such as Duplin, Bladen and Pender, insist an excess of deer herd numbers severely damages their crops.

Jeff Miller of Beulaville told the board, "We thought we had a doe season and didn't know anything about your (the board's decision) meeting two weeks ago.

Willie Sholar of Pin Hook killed 70 deer while they were eating his crops, and Jack Brinson of Kenansville killed 42 in the same circumstance, to name just a few. We don't want to kill these deer, we'd rather the hunters would do it, but we've got to stop them from ruining our crops."

He added, "We ought to let the wildlife people do this (set seasons)."

Sholar told the board, "I killed 55 in one 80-acre corn field."

Commissioner D.J. Fussell said he believes the problem will work itself out in a year.

Sholar contradicted him, saying "No, it won't! Hunters who work on jobs in town want so many deer they have to part them in the roadway so they can get to work."

Commissioner Allen Nethercutt of Lyman said deer cleaned out a 12-acre soybean field of his.

Jack Brinson of Kenansville said, "We're going to have a doe season regardless of what you do. It's either

going to be a week in September or all of next June and July."

Sholar also commented that if deer allowed to exist in such numbers they destroy crops, farmers should be able to deduct the loss from their real estate taxes.

The board took no action on the farmers' pleas.

All but two of the county landfill crew checked out on vacation to appear before the board and ask for overtime pay for Saturday work. Twenty-one of the employees appeared before the board. The board agreed to allow overtime for Saturday work for the next 30 days. The board had adopted a policy, effective July 1 requiring 40 hours work in a week before overtime would be paid on Saturday.

The board agreed to allow the emergency services director, Hiram Brinson, to continue driving his county-assigned car home at night. Effective July 1, the board had decreed only the sheriff's officers normally

could drive their cars home after work. Commissioner W.J. Costin made the motion. No one seconded the motion until Chairman Nethercutt asked Vice Chairman Calvin Turner to take the chair. Nethercutt stepped down and seconded the motion. Commissioner Franklin Williams voted against the motion. Costin, Fussell and Nethercutt voted for the motion.

The board, in its mid-July meeting, voted to allow the bailiff, Jack Albertson, to drive his county-assigned car home.

John Sawyer and Herb McKim, Wilmington architects, reported some alterations in the plans for the former county nurses quarters building, called the South Wing, to reduce remodeling cost estimates from \$100,000 to \$66,000. The board directed them to go ahead and get approval from the Duplin County Hospital Board. The commissioners provided money in the current budget for the project.

The Liberty Cart



Show Time 8:15 P.M.

Thursday - Sunday

Kenansville