

Schools Ask Duplin Panel For Lost Funds

Vocational agriculture teachers in Duplin County may be paid for 10 months instead of 12 and the extended day school program cut from 12 to 10 months because of federal and state fund reductions.

The Board of Education, presenting its proposed budget to the Board of Commissioners last week on Wednesday night, asked the county to provide the \$48,000 needed to keep these programs on their 12-month schedules.

Superintendent L.S. Guy called for \$2,729,422 in county funds for the 1982-83 fiscal year for operating expenses and \$360,275 for capital outlay expenditures.

Guy said the proposed budget asks for \$620,522 more than the school system received from the county this year.

Agricultural teachers are paid out of state and federal grants and have been paid for 12 months instead of the 10 months for which most teachers are paid. Faced with reductions in these grants, the school board decided to cut the two summer months from vocational teachers' pay schedules.

The board said the reduction, which would decrease budget needs by \$18,900 for the year, would have the least effect on students of all proposed cuts.

Elimination of two months in the extended day program would reduce expenditures by \$19,100 a year.

The agricultural teachers protested what in effect

would be a pay reduction. Commissioners indicated they do not favor picking up state or federal fund cuts at the county level.

But Commissioner D.J. Fussell said the commissioners cannot tell the school board what to do with its money.

"When it comes to taking out or leaving in, we leave it to the educators. We just give them the money," Fussell said.

Roy Houston, president of Coastal Production Credit Association headquartered in Kenansville, said more emphasis should be put on agriculture in the schools.

"There's more to agriculture than farming as so much of the county's economy is based on agricultural business and industry," Houston said. He said career counseling shows little concern for possible careers in these agricultural fields.

Duplin County has topped all North Carolina counties in gross farm income for two decades and has been listed among the 100 top agricultural counties in the nation for many years. Its gross farm income last year neared \$250 million.

The proposed budget provides for an additional 2 1/2 assistant principal positions to eliminate classroom teaching duties for principals, one of the requirements for accreditation of the system.

The budget calls for an additional guidance counselor.

It also provides for eight

non-professional staff positions now funded by the federal Comprehensive Employment and Train Act, for which funding has been eliminated.

Board Chairman Graham Phillips emphasized the CETA cuts would increase the system's problems with accreditation unless the

positions were continued. "If there's much slicing (of the budget), we'll have a real dilemma," he added.

Phillips also noted maintenance needs had been put off to save money. Defending the increase in the budget request, he emphasized the sharply rising cost of utilities, especially electricity.

Sheep Production Field Day

Duplin County citizens who would like to learn more about sheep production will get an opportunity to do so on Saturday, May 22.

The Agricultural Research Service will sponsor a sheep production field day on one of its farms near North Carolina State University.

Keith Hairr said the field day is the first event of its type in 25 years. "It has been planned," he said, "because of the resurgence of interest in sheep production in North Carolina."

Hairr said the field day would cover all aspects of the husbandry and management of sheep. "It will be a hands-on type of event where people can get involved in such things as trimming feet, handling wool and treating for internal parasites," he added.

Duplin County citizens who would like to attend the

field day should get in touch with Hairr at the AES Building or call 296-1996. He can provide more information on the event including a map of how to get there.

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Kenansville Mental Health Bellringers Named

Yvonne E. Patterson of Kenansville announced that 13 Bellringer workers will go house-to-house during May to collect funds for the Mental Health Association in North Carolina. Patterson is Bellringer chairperson for the drive in Kenansville.

As a volunteer agency, the Association works on behalf of the mentally and emotionally disturbed and to promote mental health. The Association is a non-profit, non-governmental agency and so must depend entirely on private contributions such as the funds which will be collected in this drive. The need is great. Miss Patterson decided to chair this fundraising drive for many reasons. Among those reasons

are: One person out of seven — more than 30 million of us — suffers the despair of depression, the panic of anxiety, physical disability brought on by stress, or some other devastating emotional or mental disturbance. An estimated 75% of those who attempt suicide are seriously depressed. Mental

illness is America's most costly health problem — in excess of \$29 billion. Bellringer workers collecting in Kenansville are: Sarah Coggins, Bettie Dixon, Christa Bass, Carol Grady, Mary J. Williamson, Ann Farrior, Ruth Eves, Mary Allison Frazelle, Alice Rich, Pat Prince, Hazel Scott.

Barbara Harris and Gray Morgan. The group will be glad for anyone else who would be willing to volunteer to help with this campaign.

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MOC College Hall Construction To Begin

The board of trustees of Mount Olive College has voted to begin construction of College Hall at the earliest feasible date. The vote came last week at a regular meeting of the trustees in Mount Olive.

James B. Hunt Sr. of Lucama, chairman of the board, said the vote was "unanimous and enthusiastic." Action came following a report from T.A. Loving Co. of Goldsboro, with whom the College has negotiated contract for the building, and a report from a Raleigh-based bonding firm on plans for financing the project.

President W. Burke Raper reported that the College anticipated beginning construction by late summer. College Hall is designed as an athletic-physical education facility and as a convention-recreation center for the Free Will Baptist Church and the Mount Olive community. Construction is expected to take 18 months.

Cost of the project is estimated at \$2.5 million. Trustees have set a minimum of \$1.5 million in gifts and pledges before authorizing construction to begin, but Raper reported that he believed this goal would be reached during the summer. "Our total is now in excess of \$1,150,000, from more than 1,000 donors," he reported.

The College anticipates financing the balance through seven-year mortgage bonds. "The building of College Hall will represent a significant step forward in our

plans to develop Mount Olive into a four-year college," Raper said. "Our plans are to add the junior year in 1984 and the senior year in 1985."

In other action, trustees were told by Nancy Sampson, director of admissions, that while applications for next year were generally down at private colleges in the state, they were up at Mount Olive. Dr. Thomas Johnson, dean of students, reported that the number of students signing housing contracts to live on-campus next year was up 9% over last year.

Librarian Gary F. Barefoot reported that the library now has in excess of 33,000 volumes toward its goal of 40,000 by 1984, and 50,000 by 1989. "We expect the library to be ready on schedule for the four-year program," he said.

Turstees were also told that gift support was up \$21,000 over last year. Raper said he expected contributions to set a new record of \$800,000 by the end of the fiscal year on June 30.



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