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## State Board Backs JSTC In Bid For Community College Status



James Sprunt Technical College won the endorsement of the State Board of Community Colleges last week in its bid to gain community college status.

But board members and legislators alike predicted that the recommendation would encounter a roadblock in the General Assembly, which has final authority to approve or deny the change.

Also at Thursday's meeting, the state board followed the recommendation of Robert Scott, president of the state community college system, and agreed to undertake a comprehensive study of the teaching of college-level courses in the 58-campus system.

The study will examine the impact of those courses on the system's faculty and on other institutions. No more applications for changes in schools' status will be considered until after that evaluation is completed, the board decided. Scott predicted the analysis will take six months.

The board voted unanimously to approve applications for community college status from James Sprunt and Durham Technical Institute, but only after Carl Price, president of JSTC, agreed to delete from his application a request for \$300,000.

Community college status would give students at the institutions the ability to receive transfer credits at four-year colleges. Now James Sprunt students can receive transfer credits only at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, which has a contract with the technical college.

Price said the \$300,000 in state funds would have been used to hire physical education, psychology and chemistry instructors. He told the board that doing without the extra money would mean that the school could not fully implement its college transfer program the first year.

Scott and others were less than optimistic about chances for legislative approval of the two applications, recalling a bitter battle in the

1983 legislative session over a similar request for what is now Guilford Technical Community College.

"In this climate of tax reductions and budget cuts, I'm not convinced that these applications will fly," Scott told the board.

John Forlines, chairman of the state board, agreed that it would take "a real selling job" to win approval.

"In my opinion this board ought to have the authority to approve this and settle it, but unfortunately we don't," Forlines said.

"I'm sure there's opposition out there," said Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan, a member of the community college board and presiding officer in the state Senate. Jordan said legislators have been concerned for years that the community college system is getting away from its "major mission" of providing technical training and is taking students away from four-year colleges.

"Once you tell the legislature that you're going to do a study, you auto-

matically prejudice these two bills," he said.

Sen. Kenneth Royall, a member of the Senate Higher Education Committee, said he has agreed not to oppose Durham Tech's request, but opposes the trend toward a focus on general education at the community college level.

You're getting away from the purpose of what we started them for," said Royall. "In my opinion, you're going to hurt the independent colleges" and "to some extent" the state university system.

Rep. John Church, chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, said he feels "very strongly" that community colleges should concentrate on technical training. But he said many have shown they can add general education courses of study without hurting the vocational training.

The state's community college system comprises 24 community colleges, 29 technical colleges and five technical institutes.

### Murphy Receives Award Kenansville

Amos Brinson, member of the Duplin County Board of Education, and L.S. Guy Jr., superintendent of Duplin County schools, present Rep. Wendell Murphy with the honor of being a member of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. The award was presented at the N.C. Alliance for Public Education meeting in Raleigh April 18.

## Regional Road Project Funding Approved By DOT

The board approved more than half a million dollars for construction on S.R. 1154 west of Wallace.

A contract for construction of seven more miles of Interstate 40 in Duplin County was approved by the state Board of Transportation in Raleigh Friday.

The work, on a segment from U.S. 117 south of Warsaw to north of Secondary Road 1918 east of Magnolia, probably will begin in June and has a projected completion date of December 1987. It will cost roughly \$7 million.

The board also approved right of way plans for that stretch of the highway. The segment is a portion of the interstate that eventually will extend from Wilmington to Benson.

All items on the board's monthly agendas are researched by the Department of Transportation staff and reviewed by committees before the monthly meetings. Most are routinely approved.

The board on Friday approved more than half a million dollars for construction on S.R. 1154 west of Wallace. An appropriation of about \$241,500 will be used for grading, drainage and paving 0.15 mile on the bridge and approaches over Rockfish Creek. Another \$264,925 will be used for construction on bridges No. 37 and 38 over the creek.

The board also set aside \$909 for preliminary engineering for improvements at the Seaboard System Railroad crossing on Boney Street in Wallace.

## Budget Request Brought Before Beulaville Board

Requests from the local fire and rescue departments and the town library for 1985-86 budget funds came before the Beulaville Commissioners May 6 during the regular meeting of the Board.

The Beulaville Library Commission requested \$300 more than budgeted this fiscal year. The town allocated \$2,700 to the local library during this fiscal year.

According to a report by the library, an average of 73 check-outs are logged daily. The library also averages 26 visitors daily. The facility is open three half-days each week.

A request for a total of \$10,600 was made by the Beulaville Fire and Rescue Departments. The total did not represent an increase from the present fiscal year funding from the town. The total is allocated from the town's general funds and federal revenue sharing monies. In addition to the funds from the town, Beulaville Fire and Rescue Departments will request \$4,200 from the county. An additional \$16,094 needed to complete the upcoming budget will be raised by the local volunteers, fire and rescue representatives told Beulaville Commissioners.

Web Turlington with Carolina Power and Light appeared before the Beulaville Board with information about street lights. According to

Beulaville Mayor Wilbur Hussey, approximately 15 new street lights had been requested in different areas of the town. The town currently operates 120 mercury vapor lights at a cost of \$7.50 each.

Turlington encouraged the Board to consider replacing all the town street lights with the new sodium vapor fixtures. He pointed out the sodium vapor lamps give off 35 percent more light than comparable size mercury vapor fixtures at a reduced cost.

Police Chief Aubrey Murphy and Beulaville Commissioner Elvis Sumner were nominated by the town board to work with Turlington on a lighting plan for the town. Once a plan is approved by the town board, Turlington said 90-100 days would be needed to order and install the new fixtures.

Commissioners changed the ordinance and reversed the traffic flow on the one-way Post Office Drive. Along with the reverse in the one-way direction, the board approved only right turns onto Main St. from the road.

The change came as a result of a request from Beulaville Post Master David Stevens. Stevens had called the traffic on Post Office Drive a potential safety hazard when he appeared before the Commissioners in April to request the change.

## Wallace May Beef Up Police Force After Recent Robbery

A complaint about lack of police protection may lead to an additional police officer in Wallace.

Gene Hinson of Wilmington, supervisor of Fast Fare Convenience Stores, complained to the Town Board Thursday night about police protection. The chain's store in Wallace was robbed early Monday of last week.

"I think for the safety and welfare of the people of Wallace we should add one more policeman," Mayor Earl Whitaker said after Hinson's complaint.

Police Chief Roscoe Rich said he would welcome more manpower.

At the time of the robbery, about 1:30 a.m., only one policeman was on duty. Schedules have been rearranged so two policemen now are on

late-night duty.

Whitaker is a former town police chief and Duplin County sheriff's deputy.

Hinson said the police response time following the robbery "was terrible." He said a Kenan Transport truck driver called him at 2:50 a.m. to report the door open, lights on and no one in the store. Hinson said he drove to Wallace, arriving about 4 a.m. and found the same situation. He said no policeman had checked the store.

Hinson said a policeman came by the store about 5 a.m. He added there had been other instances of no or slow response.

"We don't want to be put on a priority list, but we think we deserve

protection as much as someone else," he said.

The Wallace store was one of three robbed early Monday morning. Police believe all three stores were robbed by the same man.

The Wallace store clerk was taken about two miles out of town, forced out of the car and left there, according to police reports. She was unhurt and called for help from a nearby home. Clerks were injured in robberies of convenience stores that morning in Leland and Burgaw. Police suspect the same robber committed all three crimes.

In other business, the board approved a resolution calling for more local money for Duplin County schools. The motion was made by

Town Commissioner Charles Blanchard, assistant principal of Wallace Elementary School, and seconded by Commissioner David E. Jordan, assistant principal of Wallace-Rose Hill High School.

Blanchard later said he would be willing to support a tax increase for school improvement.

The board directed employees to remove broken and unsightly town trash containers from the sidewalks. It plans to replace them with new containers cost about \$500 apiece. The board will try to find cheaper containers.

The board set its next regular meeting for 7:30 p.m. June 20. Usually it meets on the second Thursday of the month.

## Duplin School Board Hears Local Bus Driver Law Foes Opposition

Strong opposition to a legislative proposal to establish 18 years as the minimum age for school bus drivers surfaced last week in the Duplin County Board of Education.

The board will send to the legislature a resolution signed by all members, expressing opposition to the proposal.

The board approved a roster of school bus drivers, most of them students, for the 1985-86 school year.

"Our record shows that our drivers are safe drivers," said Superintendent L.S. Guy. "Our record supports student drivers. The money these drivers get helps them."

Board member Amos Q. "Doc" Brinson said, "The bill would create a hardship on us. Our record says

we're safe. I can see that it would be different in a metropolitan area."

Carl Pate, board chairman, asked, "Could we get as good drivers by hiring adults as we now have?"

Guy responded, "I don't think so. We've got the best crop of drivers this year that we've ever had."

Board member Bill Richards of Wallace said he favors a minimum age of 17 for bus drivers.

In other business, the board approved the request of Lynda Day, head of the county exceptional children's program, to try the Elsmere curriculum plan for trainable mentally handicapped children. The plan, developed in New Jersey, sets up a vocationally oriented curriculum for ages 5 to 21. According to the

plan, all students in the program should develop skills to become productive adults.

The program's annual cost was estimated at \$1,200. Seven teachers work with 60 trainable mentally handicapped students at five sites in the county. Sites are at the Warsaw, Wallace, North Duplin and Chinquapin elementary schools and E.E. Smith Junior High school in Kenansville. The program's goal is to enable the students to live either in their own homes or in group homes and work for pay.

The state pays about \$23,000 a year per person for institution care and \$8,000 to \$11,000 a year for a person in a group home, Mrs. Day said. Two group homes are in the

county.

People with IQs of 50 to 70 are classified as educationally mentally handicapped. Those with IQs of 35 to 50 are classified as trainable mentally handicapped. IQ scores between 90 and 109 are considered average.

Gary Sanderson, assistant superintendent, said 20 seniors who have not passed competency tests will get a last opportunity on the tests. Those failing will receive certificates of completion instead of diplomas at graduation.

Sanderson expressed disappointment with the preregistration rate for kindergarten. He said only 482 preregistered this spring. Kindergarten enrollment this year is 580.

## Curtains Raise Honor For Rose Hill Woman

Dorothy Noe, founder of Dorothy's Ruffled Originals, was named first runner-up last week for the national Small Business Person of the Year Award.

President Reagan presented the awards during a White House Ceremony Tuesday marking Small Business Week.

Mrs. Noe competed against the winners from other states and the U.S. Territories for the national award. She was named the N.C. Small Business Person of the Year in March.

The national winner was Robert Allington, owner of Instrumentation Specialties Co. in Lincoln, Neb.

Mrs. Noe first designed her ruffled curtains in 1971, but it wasn't until 1974 that she set up a business to manufacture them in her home. In 1976, the company began to offer the product by mail order. By 1978, Dorothy's moved to 6721 Market St. in Wilmington and built a manufacturing facility there.



### Chamber Of Commerce Welcomes Whaley's Florist

Whaley's Florist of Kenansville opened March 2 and is owned by Dot Whaley and Ted Cole. The shop is located on Courthouse Drive in downtown Kenansville. Pictured above, left to right, Kenansville Chamber of Commerce president Grey Morgan, Dot Whaley of

Whaley's Florist, Chamber of Commerce members, attorney W.E. Craft and Doc Brinson of Kenansville Drug Store. Whaley's Florist is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.