

# School Board Seeks Details On Educational Foundation

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Board of Education members tabled a discussion on creating an educational foundation Monday night after questions were raised as to who would control the purse strings.

School Superintendent Gene Yarbrough requested that the board establish a Brunswick County Educational Foundation to "receive funds and finance certain programs and projects within the school system." However, board members instructed Yarbrough to come up with criteria for receiving and awarding the donated funds before the board's next meeting on Jan. 21.

Yarbrough also requested that two board members be chosen to sit on a committee to name members to the foundation. Board member Jane Causey then questioned who would be given the power to approve projects

financed by the foundation if there are two boards governing the funds.

"This board (school board) would establish what they may and may not fund," Yarbrough said. "The foundation would accept and distribute the funds, but the school board would develop a criteria to determine how they would do that."

Yarbrough said there are six school systems out of 134 in the state that have educational foundations to help finance school programs. Money from the donations could be used for "almost any project, primarily of the curriculum nature," he said.

"It allows the community to participate in the school system in a way that is not open to them now," he added. "It's fairly common in colleges and universities and less common on a school basis."

Many industries and businesses prefer to make donations to foundations rather than to school systems to

avoid being solicited by other school districts, Yarbrough said.

## Salary Scale Needed

Board members also delayed until their Feb. 4 meeting a discussion on a study presented by School Finance Officer Samuel Adcock Monday night that shows between 10 and 15 percent of the county's 335 "non-certified employees" are underpaid.

Non-certified employees within the school system include teacher's aides, office personnel, school cafeteria workers, custodians and maintenance and school bus garage employees.

In his extensive report to the board, Adcock said the underpaid employees should be placed on a salary scale and paid overtime to resolve "salary inequities." That would assure the school system that all persons performing the same duties would receive the same pay, he said.

"I'm not suggesting that any salaries be cut at all," Adcock said. "We are suggesting that we get all employees on a salary scale."

To eliminate salary inequities may cost the school system an additional \$124,000 per year in salaries if everyone is brought up to the recommended level, Adcock said. He took reports of what Brunswick County non-certified employees earn and compared them to what the State Department of Public Instruction sets as maximum and minimum salary levels for the jobs.

Adcock recommended the school board accept his findings and begin granting pay increases for the underpaid employees during the next couple of years. It may take a few years to allow the budget to absorb a \$124,000 increase, he added.

## Proposals Received

The board also tabled discussion on



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE

SCHOOL BOARD members Marvin McKelthan and Jane Causey study a personnel list recommended by Superintendent Gene Yarbrough Monday night. The new school board held an orderly, businesslike first meeting that included a 45-minute executive session before hiring a third assistant superintendent.

# School Board Hires Third Assistant Superintendent

BY TERRY POPE

Following a 45-minute executive session Monday night, the Brunswick County Board of Education unanimously promoted Ms. Stephanna Tewey to assistant superintendent in charge of personnel.

Ms. Tewey, 49, of Long Beach, has worked for the school system for seven years, serving six of those as director of programs for exceptional children. She will join two other assistants on Superintendent Gene Yarbrough's staff—Ed Lemon, in charge of curriculum, and P.R. Hankins, in charge of federal programs.

All three assistants will earn a local supplement of \$5,500 a year plus a state salary, making their contracts worth more than \$41,000 a

year. At a meeting in August, the previous board approved a motion that would allow all assistants to receive the same pay and also be awarded contracts to expire June 30, 1987, the date Yarbrough's contract also expires.

Ms. Tewey began her career in education teaching primary and junior high school grades in her native state of Michigan. From there, she taught at schools in Wisconsin and Maryland, where she was named special education supervisor of Prince George's County.

In 1977, she became education program specialist on the Council for Exceptional Children in Reston, Va. She was named resource teacher at Waccamaw Elementary School in



STEPHANNA TEWEY

1978 where she taught for one year before being promoted to director of programs for exceptional children.

As assistant superintendent, Ms. Tewey will be responsible for maintaining personnel files, conducting interviews and recommending to the school board applicants for hiring.

As a consultant on special education needs, Ms. Tewey served three years on the N.C. State Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and testified in the state legislature for the Commission on Children with Special Needs.

She received a bachelor's degree in

education from Nazareth College in Nazareth, Mich., and a master's degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

In other personnel-related matters Monday night, the board agreed to advertise for two positions—a replacement for Ms. Tewey and an assistant principal's position at Lincoln Primary School. Board member James Clemmons was principal at Lincoln before retiring in December to take his seat on the board. Assistant Joseph Butler was then promoted to principal.

The board also accepted the retirements of Thomas Brown, school bus transportation supervisor, and June Stokoe, a kindergarten instructor at Southport Elementary, effective at the end of the school year.

Hired by the board were the following: Patricia Ward, Chapter I supervisor; Albert Dawson, vocational education, Leland Middle; Cynthia Jackson, kindergarten (interim), Union; Denise Medlin-Hobbs, Lincoln Primary (interim); Roberta Thompson, New Model Me, South Brunswick High; Anthony Price, teacher aide, Shallotte Middle; and central office employees Sherry Dove, personnel secretary; Ruth Finley, receptionist; Shelia Stanley, secretary, vocational education and community education.

The board accepted the resignation of William Ehlen, New Model Me instructor at South Brunswick High, and leaves of absence from Elizabeth Crawford, special education instructor, Lincoln; and Nancy Wemyss, kindergarten, Union.

several energy-management proposals submitted by A.E. LeBlanc of Raleigh, Johnson Controls of Wilmington, and Carefree Systems Inc. All three companies were invited to submit bids for installing energy conservation systems at the county schools that would reduce utility bills and energy usage.

At the present rate, the schools spend up to \$859,000 a year on utility bills, Yarbrough said. That figure is expected to rise above \$1 million a year in the next couple of years, he added.

Computer-regulated equipment could produce energy savings up to \$120,000 a year for the schools, Adcock said. Payment for the systems would come from the schools' guaranteed savings under the systems.

"It's almost a no-lose proposition," Yarbrough said. "These companies are confident they can produce savings."

However, only one school system in the state has installed energy-saving devices within their system, Yarbrough said.

"I'd hate to be number two," board member James Clemmons said. Clemmons recommended checking the companies' "track records" before accepting a proposal.

## Other Business

In other business, the board:

• Agreed to consider at its next meeting a recommendation from Supply resident Harley Evans to stop charging user fees of \$65 per hour plus custodial expenses for public use of the school buildings. Evans said the "exorbitant fees" prevent certain groups from using the buildings.

• Heard an update on the recovery of funds from Hurricane Diana from Assistant Superintendent P.R. Hankins. Hankins said the board received in reimbursements \$9,832 of a requested \$14,000 from the Red Cross and \$11,424.89 of a requested \$10,761.69 from insurance companies. There is still no word on requests for \$16,253.33 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and \$22,159 in state disaster relief funds disbursed by the State Department of Education. Yarbrough was designated as official agent for the school board to continue seeking federal funds under the Disaster Relief Act.

• Approved class trips by a South Brunswick High School group to France on April 6-15, and by Shallotte Middle School seventh and eighth grade students March 8-10 to Epcot Center at Walt Disney World in Florida.

# Drug Defendants Will Appeal \$3,000 Fines

Three Winston-Salem men convicted in 1983 on drug trafficking charges in Brunswick County will appeal their \$3,000 fines during a Superior Court session Feb. 11.

The three were among 18 who were arrested in the 1980 DC-4 drug smuggling attempt at the Brunswick County Airport. Kevin Witherspoon, 23, his brother Reginald, 27, and Jerry Wallace, 23, were charged with six counts of conspiracy and trafficking on July 31, 1980, after sheriff's deputies seized the plane loaded with more than 9,500 pounds of marijuana.

In a plea bargain agreement with District Attorney Michael Easley, the men pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to traffic by transporting more than 2,000 pounds, but less than 10,000 pounds of marijuana.

Since they served as state's witnesses against the men accused of being leaders in the drug conspiracy, Easley said he recommended lighter sentences for the men.

All three were given a three-year prison sentence, suspended for all but six months, and fined \$3,000 each. They could have been sentenced up to

90 years in prison and been fined up to \$150,000 each if convicted on all charges facing them.

Easley now says he will "most definitely" oppose any waiver of fines the men are seeking. In a motion filed by their attorney, Larry F. Habegger, the men labeled their fines as "overly burdensome" and pointed out that a judge had remitted the fine of another man with the same involvement in the smuggling attempt.

Since serving their six-month terms, all three defendants have remained on probation while working jobs that pay minimum wages, Habegger stated in the motion. The men will remain on probation for five years.

Easley said Tuesday he felt \$3,000 is not burdensome for any drug defendant to have to pay. Unless a judge rules otherwise, the money will go to the Brunswick County Schools, he said.

"Generally, payment of the fines is set at the discretion of their probation officer," Easley said. "I don't know if any of the fines have been paid."

# Sex Charges Dismissed Against Shallotte Man

Charges of first-degree sexual offense and taking indecent liberties with a child were dismissed against a Shallotte man during a probable cause hearing in Brunswick County District Criminal Court Monday morning.

Bradley W. Ward, 22, was accused of sexually assaulting his eight-year-old nephew at the child's home in Shallotte on Dec. 18.

Following the boy's testimony in court Monday, Judge Jerry A. Jolly ruled no probable cause existed on the charges. Ward was arrested on charges filed by Brunswick County Sheriff's Deputy Nancy Simpson and was being held in the Brunswick County Jail.

In court Monday, the boy's mother testified that her son told her that Ward had sexually assaulted him and hurt him "a little bit". She said her son also told some people that he was assaulted, but told others that nothing had happened.

When questioned by Assistant District Attorney Wanda Bryant, the boy denied that Ward had ever hurt him. He told Ms. Bryant that Ward had shared a bed with him one night.

After the mother's testimony, Ward's defense attorney, David Ford of Long Beach, asked the judge to dismiss the charges, saying "the state's only eyewitness has denied that it happened."

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