

Delays Put Union School Building Behind Schedule

BY TERRY POPE

Some Union Primary School students will report to their old classrooms when school starts Aug. 31, but the delays in moving into a newer building won't be for very long.

Work on a new addition at the school should be complete by mid-September. Students will move into renovated parts of the school on schedule.

Assistant to the Superintendent Bill Turner told the Brunswick County Board of Education last Thursday that he should know more on the construction project by Aug. 17, when he meets with the contractors and architects.

"We're not planning to bring in any mobile classrooms," Turner said. "We have the facilities there and the teachers will be working with us. We'll just have the same situation we had last year. The cinderblock building will still be in use at the start of school."

Turner said the architects had to redesign a new sewer system, which also had to be approved by the state, that forced the project 60 days behind schedule. Contractors are working both Saturday and Sunday to complete the project.

The situation at Lincoln Primary School in Leland is better, he said. "I feel that we're in pretty good shape at Lincoln."

Construction at Lincoln should be finished by Aug. 19, the day before teachers are to report back to school.

At Union, the renovated sections should be ready by Aug. 30. Three classes will continue to meet in the cinderblock building, which will be demolished after the new section opens. Five classes will meet in the kindergarten quad, as they did all of last year.

"The students won't be in anything worse than they were in last year until we can get the good stuff ready," said Board Chairman James Forstner.

Turner said he will meet with the teachers and bus drivers from both schools before students return Aug. 31. He said the meetings will focus on parking, loading of buses and other safety factors that need to be kept in mind while construction is underway on the campuses.

Rewards Offered

The board also voted Thursday to offer two \$500 rewards for information leading to the arrests of persons responsible for breaking and entering the auto repair shops recently at both North and West Brunswick High Schools.

Board member James Clemmons said he would like to place all of the county schools on alarm systems to

prevent further break-ins and thefts. Six of the 12 schools do have burglary alarms.

Assistant Superintendent P.R. Hankins said it costs from \$12,000 to \$15,000 to install an alarm system in one school. He said approximately \$60,000 would be needed to add alarms in the remaining schools but

that a package deal is possible.

"We lose that much each year," Clemmons added regarding the installation costs.

Other Business

In other business last Thursday, the board:

- Approved a revised local expense and vocational education budget that

includes an additional \$45,000 for utilities due to a 13 percent increase in energy costs. It also shifts two warehouse employee salaries (\$31,114) from the maintenance budget to the child nutrition budget.

- Agreed to seek bids for tagging and identifying fixed assets (such as equipment, desks, chairs) at each of

the schools. The central office has a computer program for the project, but it does not have the manpower. The board said it may want to hire its own persons for the project if bids are too high.

- Authorized attorneys Glenn Peterson and James Prevatte to file foreclosure notices in Pender County

to collect \$87,500 in bond payments that were due to the schools in February. No payments have been made in the bond forfeitures stemming from a 1983 drug case.

- Heard a complaint from a Waccamaw Elementary School parent over the selection process of cheerleaders at the school.

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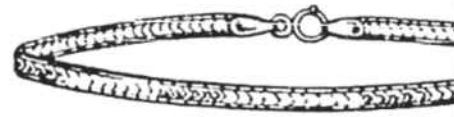
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