

Schools To Try County Again, With Different Funding Plan

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Board of Education members Monday took to heart the maxim, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

Members voted 2-1 to ready another school funding proposal for presentation to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners—next Monday night, if possible. Members Bob Slockett and James Clemmons voted for the proposal and Dot Worth against it. Chairman Doug Baxley abstained. Member Donna Baxter had been excused from the meeting earlier so that she could honor a work-related commitment.

During budget deliberations in May and June the county commissioners turned down an earlier school board request for money with which to construct a new K-5

school in Supply, noting that the county had made available funds for land acquisition and that sufficient money is available to plan and design the new school.

The commissioners offered to call for a bond referendum on the \$5.5 million construction project. In turn, school board members said they wanted to study the alternatives before a decision was made.

Chairman Doug Baxley said Monday's decision doesn't mean the school board has abandoned consideration of a bond referendum. "It's an effort to explore another alternative to that," he said.

Also, he added, there are concerns related to the scheduling and passage of a referendum. "Personally, I would prefer not to have it on the same ballot with an ABC referendum."

Since the county said it couldn't fund the building program over a two-year period, school board members sent their architect, Charles Boney Jr., back to the drawing board to come up with a three-year proposal.

As presented Monday, the schedule would call for near-equal contributions from school system/state funds and county funds over the full period, Slockett said. "This, I think, would be very satisfactory to the commissioners."

However, Worth said that the extended schedule would defeat the purpose of the new school. "If we wait three years to build it the children who need it will be gone. They will be at the middle school," she said.

Instead, she recommended scaling down the project, omitting such

items as the cafeteria and the gymnasium.

Slockett disagreed, saying that while the school population has dipped slightly, that state birth records and other statistics indicate the county can expect the number of students to steadily increase, and the need for the school to remain. Also, he said, building the school in phases would add to its overall cost.

Baxley noted decreasing the size of the school would also mean redefining its attendance zone, while Boney said that even a smaller project would be at least a 12-month project.

Monday's appearance before the commissioners depends on at least two factors—the school delegation completing its preparations in time, and the commissioners agreeing to add the item to their agenda.

At current projections the new school is expected to serve approximately 650 students, most of them from the western school district served by Union Primary and Shallotte Middle schools, both of which are overcrowded.

The timetable proposed by Charles Boney Jr. and his father, Charles Boney Sr., of Boney & Associates in Wilmington, calls for planning and design of the \$5.5 million project to be completed no later than May 1990, with bidding in May or June. Construction would begin in July 1990 and be completed, with occupancy, by January 1992. Payments would be spread out over the course of the work, with \$286,000 due for the planning and design phase, \$20,000 for the bidding phase, and construction fees due in two phases, \$3.48 mil-

lion between June 1990 and June 1991, and another \$1.72 million between June 1991 and January 1992.

Delaying occupancy of the building from September 1991 to January 1992, Boney Sr. said, leaves a more "comfortable" schedule for both construction and payment.

While the only certain long-term commitment from the county to fund the project would be a bond referendum, school board attorney Glen Peterson said the board could try to get the commissioners to commit to the project, but that anything other than a favorable bond vote would be subject to "undoing" by a future board of commissioners.

School board members said they wanted commissioners "to know what we're really thinking" before a decision is made.

Counselor Sues Superintendent, School Board Over Job Change

BY RAHN ADAMS

Leland Middle School guidance counselor and former central office official Jean Parker is suing the Brunswick County Board of Education and Superintendent John Kaufhold over what she calls a "demotion" and "intentional infliction of mental distress."

In a lawsuit filed Aug. 1 in Brunswick County Superior Court, Mrs. Parker asks for an order requiring the school board to offer her a supervisory or administrative position; lost compensation resulting from her job change; and damages in excess of \$10,000 for alleged violations of her constitutional right to due process in the reassignment.

Also, Mrs. Parker asks for damages of at least \$10,000 from the school board and Kaufhold due to the "mental distress" she says they intentionally caused her. The complaint includes a two-page list of personal allegations against mainly the superintendent.

When contacted Friday, Kaufhold declined to comment in detail on the lawsuit. However, Kaufhold said he and school board attorney Glen Peterson would "sit down and refute every one of those single points" made by Mrs. Parker. Peterson will then meet with Mrs. Parker's lawyer, David Ford, and "see if they're serious about going to court," Kaufhold said.

According to the lawsuit, Mrs. Parker has been employed by Brunswick County Public Schools since July 1984, when she was hired as principal of Waccamaw Elementary School.

After the 1985-86 school year, she was reassigned as the school system's administrative liaison, as director of internal services the next year and then as interim community school coordinator for 1988-89.

When the former community school coordinator returned from maternity leave, Mrs. Parker was reassigned as a guidance counselor at Leland Middle School for the coming school year.

She maintains in her suit that the reassignment, which was made without her consent, has resulted in a "reduction in rank" and a "reduction in total compensation" due to losses of a wage increase and work leave.

Kaufhold told the Beacon Friday that Mrs. Parker has the same benefits and salary now as a guidance counselor that she had in her former position. Calling her a "well-paid employee," he said her salary is more than \$43,000 per year, an amount that is more than other guidance counselors' salaries.

"I don't feel as if we've done wrong by Mrs. Parker," Kaufhold commented, "although I know she feels it's a demotion."

Kaufhold said state law allows him to move employees at his discretion or that of the school board, and that they do not have to obtain employees' consent. He added that Mrs. Parker's latest reassignment was unanimously approved this summer by the board.

In her complaint, Mrs. Parker alleges that Kaufhold "has engaged in a deliberate and intentional course of conduct designed to degrade, insult and harass" her.

Her allegations against Kaufhold also include that he has repeatedly changed her job description to keep her from having administrative and supervisory responsibilities; that he has asked her to prepare presentations unnecessarily; that he has "repeatedly stated or implied" that he planned to fire her.

On a more personal level, she states that Kaufhold "has made public comments casting aspersions on (her) abilities"; that he criticized her

for taking leave to care for her husband during what was a terminal illness; and that he has "directed temper tantrums" at her.

The complaint says that Kaufhold's alleged actions have caused Mrs. Parker to lose sleep on occasion, to be treated for high blood pressure and to become emotionally upset.

In reference to the personal accusations, Kaufhold told the Beacon, "I've tried to be very fair and very understanding with Mrs. Parker... I just don't understand why she would do that. I don't understand the personal attacks. It hurts."

Leland Area Man Indicted In Burglary, Assault Case

A Leland area man was indicted Monday in connection with a burglary and shooting incident near Leland in June.

Lester Fields, 29, of Route 1, Leland, was among eight defendants named in 19 true bills of indictment handed down Monday by a Brunswick County grand jury, according to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office.

Charges against Fields include burglary, discharging a firearm into occupied property and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill.

Court records state that Fields was arrested June 12 by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department, the day after the alleged incident occurred at the Pemella Munn residence on Route 5, Leland.

Fields is accused of breaking into the mobile home and firing several

.38-caliber pistol shots at two of the occupants: Tyrell Munn and Judette Ballard. No one apparently was injured. Pemella Munn also was inside the dwelling when the incident occurred.

According to the clerk of court's office, other defendants indicted Monday by the grand jury were:

—Darrel J. Cokeley, breaking and entering, and two counts of larceny.

—Robert N. Barrett, five counts of breaking and entering.

—Magdalena Ruiz Vazquez, discharging a firearm into occupied property.

—Richard M. Sellers, larceny.

—Joseph Gore, breaking and entering.

—Terrance Davis, assault.

—Mark Anthony Poulos, three counts of breaking and entering motor vehicles.

Wet Weather Is Expected

Seasonable temperatures and above average rainfall are expected in the Shallotte area over the next several days, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Temperatures through the weekend will average from around 70 degrees at night to the upper 80s during the day. Also, about one inch of rain is forecast.

For the period of Aug. 8 through 14, the daily average temperature

was 73 degrees, which Canady said was seven degrees below normal.

The average daily high temperature was 79 degrees, and the average nightly low temperature was 67 degrees.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 86 degrees on Aug. 13. The minimum low temperature was 63 degrees on Aug. 10 and 11.

Canady measured 0.66 of an inch of rain during the seven-day period.

Two Withdraw From Election

(Continued From Page 1-A) teens and doing other work to make Varnamtown a better community. "I have done a lot of things for the town and intend to do more for the town."

Ms. Britt said White withdrew last week as a candidate in Navassa because he is being transferred by his company.

Because White's withdrawal leaves Navassa without a full slate of candidates for the fall election, Ms. Britt said Tuesday she expected

the county elections board to agree to reopen the filing period for Navassa when it met Wednesday.

She said the filing period would probably be set Aug. 25 through Sept. 8 because there will be an emergency filing period at that time for the Town of Calabash. White was one of two people who had filed to fill the two seats up for grabs this year on Navassa Town Council.



STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

Lawmen Lower Center Flags

Brunswick County Sheriff's Sgt. Ronald Hewett and Deputy Charles Crocker fold the U.S. flag after lowering it Monday evening at the county government center in Bolivia. The sheriff's department recently began lowering the flags on the center's new flagpoles on U.S. 17, so that the federal, state and county banners could fly until sunset, instead of just until 5 p.m. when the complex closes.

Neighboring Communities Will Vote

(Continued From Page 1-A)

in the future.

Carolina Shores Meets

More than 200 Carolina Shores residents crammed into the property owners association clubhouse Saturday for an hour-long informational meeting on consolidation. Calabash Town Council will host a similar meeting today (Thursday) at 7 p.m. in town hall.

Bob Cook, president of the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association (CSPOA), chaired Saturday's meeting and urged residents to get out and vote. He answered a variety of questions concerning the consolidation plan along with other members of the committee that worked out this year with officials from Calabash.

Many residents were interested in the potential effects of one area voting against consolidation and the other voting in favor of the plan.

If the voters of Carolina Shores favor consolidation and Calabash voters balk at the proposal, Cook said it may improve the community's chances of getting legislation next year that would allow residents to vote on incorporation of a separate municipality.

However, if the vote is the other way around, Cook said it may improve the chances of Calabash annexing part of the golf course community.

However, the POA president stressed there is no way to determine how the two local state representatives will react to such a vote. "We can't tell how these people will

react a year from now—political pressures being as they are," he said.

Cook said both legislators—State Rep. David Redwine and State Sen. R.C. Soles—were supposed to attend Saturday's meeting but had to cancel because the legislature was still in session.

In response to separate questions, Cook acknowledged that the charter of the enlarged Town of Calabash could be amended in the future to allocate a higher percentage of the commission seats to Carolina Shores and that any resident of the consolidated area could petition the town to do away with alcohol sales. The 5-to-2 split on the town board was proposed because of population differences in the two communities. There are approximately 1,000 residents in Carolina Shores and about 200 in Calabash.

While he refused to make a recommendation to residents, Cook indicated that he supports the consolidation plan. "Consolidation is not necessarily all that bad," he said. "It may be the lesser of several evils."

Residents seemed to agree that annexation into the Town of Calabash is something they do not want. Because of the small size of Cala-

bash, the town could not annex all of the golf course community at one time.

Cook said the community needs to have some control over the growth of surrounding areas and that consolidation is one way to gain that control. He said consolidation will give the residents of the subdivision "self-determination" and stronger political clout.

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