

County School Board Tackles Routine Agenda

Brunswick County Board of Education members worked their way through a long agenda of routine business Monday night in their last regular meeting before the start of school.

Board members and staff fielded several questions from a representative of the Concerned Taxpayers of Brunswick County, a consolidation of questions raised by people attending the group's organizational meeting in July.

The aim of the new group is to serve as a forum for public discussion and consensus building, according to one of its founders and president, Deborah Engel of Long Beach.

Among other things, Mrs. Engel's husband, Rick, wanted to know if board members had the authority to enter school classrooms, teachers' lounges or teachers' mailboxes, and was told their rights were the same as any other "patron of the schools."

When specifically asked if he had ever conducted a search of teachers' desks or mailboxes looking for certain materials, such as a petition, board member Robert Slockett said he had not.

Finance Officer Rudi Fallon also explained, in answer to other questions, the source of the \$30,000 paid to John Kaulhold, former superintendent of schools, in a settlement reached with the board in July. The money came from administrative expense accounts, she said, and approval of county commissioners was not required for its use for that purpose.

In response to another question, Mrs. Engel said board members and staff described system-wide efforts to encourage academic recognition, as well as athletic recognition, such as the academic banquet and "green card" program at West Brunswick High School. Some of the funds initially set aside for student recognition were cut during the year, and parent-teacher organizations encouraged to make up the difference locally.

Vice Chairman James Clemmons, who was presiding, was receptive to Engel's suggestion the board consider meeting in a larger facility or rotating meetings to various schools around the county.

Mrs. Engel said Tuesday she was pleased to get answers to the questions Monday to take back to the next meeting of the taxpayers' group, which will be held probably in late August or early September at Piney Grove School near Bolivia. Then it will be up to members to follow up as they wish, she said.

The group also plans to meet with Assistant Superintendent William Harrison and other school officials to discuss the special educational program. Specifically, Mrs. Engel said some parents have suggested better communication is needed between the school system and parents regarding testing and evaluation of special education students.

The board, in other business: —Reviewed budget appropriations for the coming year following adoption of the state budget earlier this month by the General Assembly.

—Met in executive session to discuss personnel, approving routine personnel actions afterward.

—Authorized the hiring of Boney & Associates Architects to design a new cafeteria for Southport Primary School and renovation of the old cafeteria into classrooms, as recommended by Assistant Superintendent William Turner. The firm has the design contract for the new elementary school to be built at Supply. Also, Slockett said in a telephone interview Tuesday, Boney & Associates has previous experience in renovating cafeterias into classrooms.

—Authorized the purchase of a second 36-passenger bus rather than an activity van, also at Turner's recommendation. Turner said Monday that the federal government plans to phase out use of vans for student transportation of any type, for safety reasons. The bus will cost \$31,000, compared to a cost of \$19,000 for a van; Turner said the money is available in the budget.

—Heard reports from Assistant Superintendent William Harrison regarding California Achievement Test results and summer school. Test results were highly inconsistent and varied widely from school to school, he said. For third-graders, for example, he said the range was 37 percentile points. Testing Coordinator Pat Ward will conduct item analysis and other breakdowns of the scores. On the average, scores were down four to six points over a year ago.

Board Chairman Dorothy Worth arrived approximately one hour late to the meeting, while member Donna Baxter was absent.



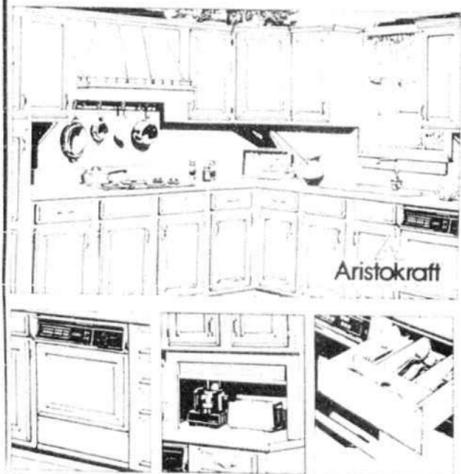
BCC PHOTO

NCNB Donates To College

NCNB Senior Banking Executive Dennis Crocker, right, recently presented a \$1,000 check to Brunswick Community College President W. Michael Reaves as the bank's donation to the BCC Foundation community fund drive. Contributions to the BCC Foundation provide student scholarships, work study programs and other student assistance.

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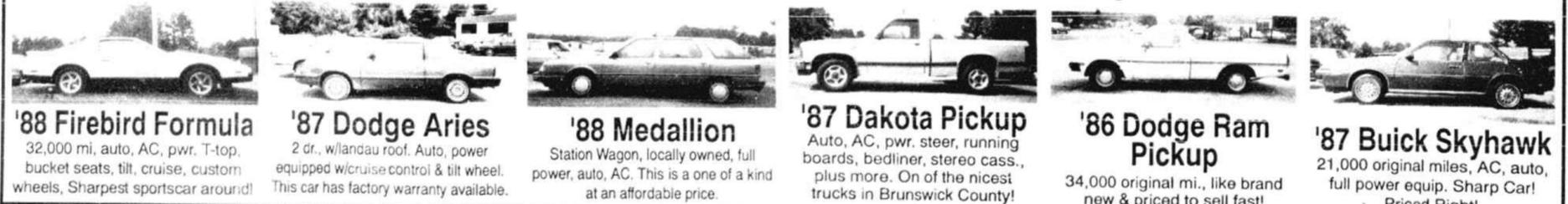
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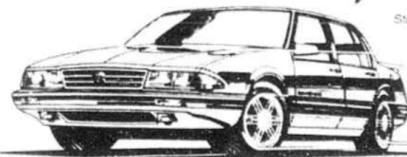
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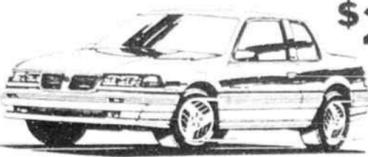
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