

# School Calendar Goes Back To Drawing Board

BY SUSAN USHER

A proposed calendar for the 1991-92 school year went back to the drawing board Monday night for the second time.

The Brunswick County Board of Education rejected the latest version on a 2-3 split.

As recommended by the county's association for principals and assistant principals, the calendar calls for teachers to start back to school on Aug. 12, with the first day of classes on Aug. 21. Classes would let out on June 3.

Students would be released from school at 11:30 a.m. on four Wednesdays during the first semester to accommodate school-based staff development for teachers, with one falling the same week as the Veterans Day holiday.

"I have no objections to staff development; I just have some concerns about doing it in this fashion," said Doug Baxley of the proposed schedule. One of his concerns was for parents having to arrange childcare for those extra half-days when students are out of class.

West Brunswick High School Principal Ed Lemon, president of the association, said the idea is to provide "top quality" staff development. If sessions are completed during the first half of the school year teachers could apply the new ideas in their classrooms before the end of the term.

While at least one board member wondered if the mid-week schedule might disrupt classrooms, Gloria Yount, director of staff development, said a midweek afternoon is the best available time. Teachers are distracted and have their minds on other concerns during sessions held after school or on Fridays or even on the days immediately before the start of school, she said. And, some veteran teachers take annual leave on staff development days unless attendance is required.

"I have employees too," said Baxley. "And when their minds aren't on their work I have ways of getting their minds back on it."

A motion regarding the calendar was already on the floor when member Yvonne Bright said she had been approached by organizers of a countywide chemical-free graduation party about scheduling graduations for the three county high schools on the same day next year. The times could be staggered, she said.

### Other Business

In other business, school board members:

■ Finalized plans for a 1 1/2 day retreat April 26-27 at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill, where they will discuss curriculum and management issues and work on team-building.

■ Appointed Anthony Awecky, a retired school administrator now living in Boiling Spring Lakes, as the community representative on the Teacher of the Year selection committee.

■ Heard a proposal from Nelson Best, athletic coordinator, to allow schools to raise funds for their athletic programs by selling Affinity Fund private long distance tele-

phone services in cooperation with the N.C. High School Athletic Association.

■ After a 1 1/2-hour executive session on personnel and attorney-client matters, conveyed a lot in town to the City of Southport for its use; conveyed the deed for a third tract of property to Brunswick Community College, subject to approval of county commissioners; and adopted the personnel lists as presented (See related story in this issue.). The deed is one of three for the site of BCC's Southport campus and was overlooked at the time the others were transferred to the county for conveyance to BCC, said board attorney Glen Peterson.

■ After discussion, approved a lengthy consent agenda that included a trip by 33 Lincoln Primary School third grade students to Washington, D.C. Board member, Yvonne Bright said she heard complaints that other third grade classes did not have the option of taking that trip or any other. Principal Joseph Butler said the complaints apparently resulted from a misunderstanding about restrictions on outings for which the schools cover the cost of fuel.

■ Heard that staff will be checking to see if the system qualifies for federal impact aid, money intended

to offset demands created by the presence of a military installation in a local community.

■ Learned from Assistant Superintendent Bill Turner that while the state has no rule on whether a school can have a shooting range on campus, state agricultural education consultant Charles L. Keels has suggested there "are serious implications and dangers" in having one. West Brunswick High School agriculture teacher Tracy James and certified safety instructor/N.C. Wildlife Enforcement Officer Fred Taylor had asked for a range at the high school, so that rifle team members and hunter safety education students don't have to commute elsewhere to practice and can host competitions. The team took top honors at a recent district meet and will advance to state competition.

■ Learned from Turner that part of a boiler cracked at Union Primary School and will have to be replaced, possibly helping solve a problem of irregular heating there.

■ When substitute bus drivers occasionally forget to pick up students along their routes, Turner also reported, someone with the transportation department will take the child to school.

■ Set the next regular meeting of the board for 6:30 p.m. May 6 at South Brunswick High School.

## Board Okays Personnel Actions

Brunswick County Board of Education members approved the filling of two positions on an interim basis at their meeting Monday.

Dorothy Stanley of Long Beach will fill in until June 12 as a sixth grade science teacher at South Brunswick Middle School, replacing Ernest Johnson of Wilmington, whose resignation was accepted Monday night.

Marion Fine of Yaupon Beach will serve as computer coordinator in the central office until June 30.

The board granted a year's personal leave of absence to Pam Pahl of Holden Beach, central office secretary for operations and finance; and a shorter medical leave of absence to Beatrice Beatty, a custodi-

an at Leland Middle School. Filling in for Ms. Beatty will be Brenda Joyner of Bolivia.

The board also accepted resignations from Karen Cooper of Shallotte, a school nurse; and Henry Smith of Ash, a heating and air conditioning mechanic in the maintenance department.

These new substitute teachers were approved: Trecia Barber and Mary Gurganious, Wilmington; Tony Bonyanian, Sunset Beach; La-Chawn Daniels and Neala Hardie, Riegelwood; Jerry Merrick, Leland; Gerald Nance, Southport; Amy Morton, Holden Beach; Mary Scott, Calabash; Larry Simmons, Winna-bow; Brenda Spencer, Shallotte; and Julie Walters, Lake Waccamaw.



UNC PHOTO

### Checking Out Chapel Hill

South Brunswick High School seniors Kristin Jones of Yaupon Beach (left) and Amelia Hawes of Bolivia (center) explore student organizations and programs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill during a recent Carolina Fair. They visited the campus as part of a program aimed at attracting highly-ranked seniors to enroll. The trip changed Miss Jones' view of the school. Before she had not considered going to UNC, thinking it too big and impersonal, she said.



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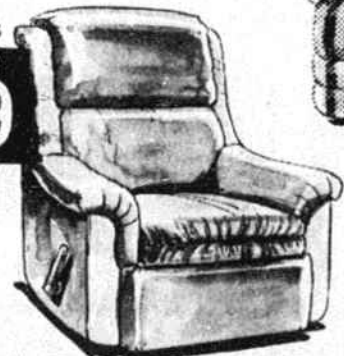
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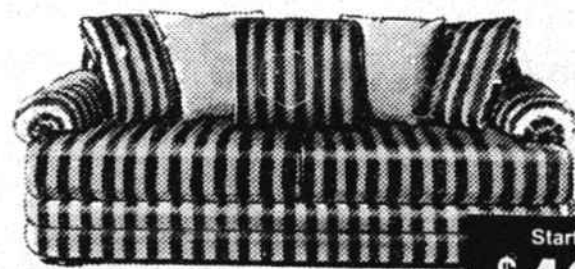


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