

TEACHERS START NEXT WEEK

Administrators 'Almost Ready' To Begin Another School Term

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County school system administrators returned from a 2 1/2-day upstate retreat Monday geared up for the start of another school year, staff development director Gloria Yount said Tuesday.

Thirty-seven principals, assistant principals and central office administrators discussed goals and programs for the year, as well as ways of working together more effectively.

While looking forward to the new

year, Ms. Yount said the administrators also feel "challenged" this year to rise to the state's expectations for performance.

"We have high expectations," she said. "We are not taking that challenge lightly. We are looking forward to the school year. We feel focused and almost ready."

Briefing Brunswick County Board of Education members Tuesday night, she said, "We feel as a staff that we are headed in the right direction in curriculum."

She said the administrators came away more committed to working as a team with each other and the school board and committed to the system's goals.

Approximately 540 teachers begin reporting to work Monday,

while an estimated 9,000 students are expected at the county's 11 schools Wednesday, May 21.

Staff convocations will be held May 19, after all teachers have reported.

Instead of all personnel gathering at Hatch Auditorium at the N.C. Baptist Assembly, staff from schools in the North Brunswick and South Brunswick attendance zones will gather at 9 a.m. at South Brunswick Middle School, while those from the West Brunswick district meet at 2 p.m. at Shalotte Middle School.

Central office personnel will attend both sessions, as will the same guest speaker, said Ms. Yount.

Motivating the system's 1,100-plus employees to a positive start

will be Sammie Campbell-Parrish, assistant state superintendent for program services.

Should the system fall below minimum performance standards set by the state on its system by system annual "report card" it would be at risk of having the state come in and appoint a "caretaker" to operate the school system.

On its 1990 card, Brunswick County did not meet state standards in four areas, while fully meeting the standard in 13 areas and meeting a minimum standard in nine other areas. It did not compare favorably with other schools of similar profile.

Along with other goals, this year the system will focus on four areas: reducing the drop-out rate, improv-

ing teacher and pupil attendance; and reducing the number of students served by in-school suspension and out-of-school suspension.

A drop in California Achievement Test scores this past term raised concerns for the system's rating on its 1990-91 report card, which has not been released yet by the state.

Ralph Ward, personnel director, said the school system will generally not see any actual growth in staff size.

William Babson, a maintenance supervisor, said that his crew will probably be renovating mobile units at Union Primary School as classrooms. Because of increased enrollment at the end of the 1990-91 school year, Union Primary is get-

ting two additional classroom teachers.

The overcrowding will be relieved, at least temporarily, with the opening of Supply Elementary School next year.

Ward said the school system is also getting back to filling some positions that were to be funded under the Basic Education Program last year, but were not because the system had to give back part of its state allocation before the school year had even begun.

The positions are either support—such as a school psychologist—or enrichment—such as foreign language, fine arts or physical education.

"We got basically what we gave back last year," said Ward.



YOUNT

Staff Will Work With Alliance

Two staff members of the Brunswick County Schools will work with the Science Alliance Committee during the coming year.

Following an executive session at the school board meeting Tuesday night, Chairman Donna Baxter appointed Gloria Yount, staff development director; and Mose Lewis, assistant superintendent for curriculum, to serve with Superintendent Hankins on the Science Alliance Committee.

The core committee of Alliance teachers will meet with staff members, then begin involving other teachers in the project, said Ms. Baxter.

Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. has agreed to pay for workshops that had been requested for the teachers.

Board member Robert Slockett

has pushed the board to move more rapidly in regard to development of a math/science/technology center by the schools, the Science Alliance, the Brunswick County Education Foundation and local business and industry. Monday he said fellow board members directed him to back off from the project.

"They said they didn't think I was conducting it appropriately," he said.

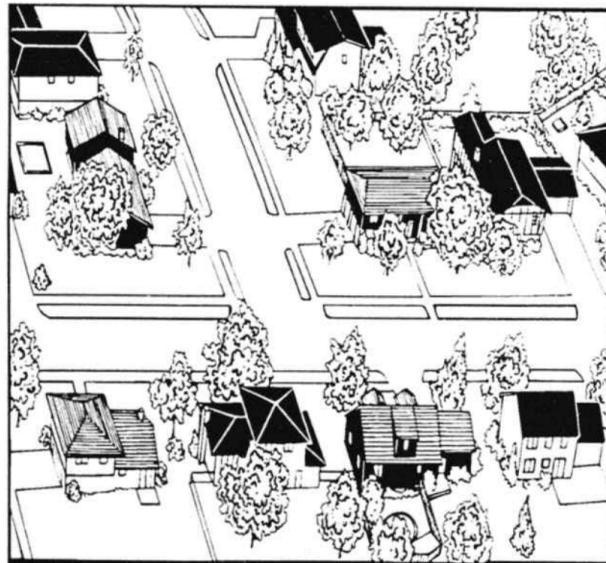
Ms. Baxter said this approach should be more effective since it utilizes staff involved in curriculum rather than a member of the school board and should help alleviate some of the "constant conflict" on the board that has resulted previously.

"It has made it look like the board was against this proposal and we're not," she said. "We are very supportive of it."

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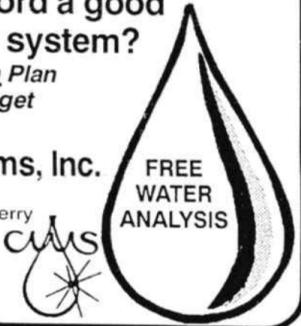
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