

# BCC, School Leaders Discussing Math/Science Technology Center

BY SUSAN USHER

A proposed math/science technology center is getting a closer look this week from two local educational institutions.

Following an exploratory meeting earlier this month on the possible joint venture, officials of the Brunswick County Schools and Brunswick Community College were to meet Wednesday to discuss in greater detail the proposed center, its mission, organization and staffing, school board attorney Glen Peterson reported Monday night at the school board's regular meeting.

The meeting which was held in the media center at North Brunswick High School.

More than 100 parents, school employees and others packed the center, in sharp contrast with the last such board meeting held at a Leland area school. That last meeting was attended only by meeting regulars.

## More Details Sought

While generally supportive of the proposal, said Peterson, college officials said more information on the organization of the proposed center is needed before BCC could endorse the project or take part in it fully.

Participants in Wednesday's meeting in addition to Peterson were to be Superintendent of Schools P.R. Hankins, BCC President W. Michael Reaves, Board of Education Chairman Donna Baxter, and BCC Board of Trustees Chairman David Kelly.

They will be reviewing bylaws and organizational materials for a center at Aiken, S.C., that is the model for the local proposal, as well as proposed mission statements being drafted by the BCC staff.

Only after this group reaches consensus, indicated Peterson, would any recommendations be presented to their respective boards, such as a barebones outline for the center or appointment of an organizing committee.

In response to questions from board member Robert Stockett, who has pushed for establishment of such a center, Peterson said the director of the Aiken, S.C., center would be contacted later in the organizational process and that initial staffing needs would be considered at Wednesday's meeting.

Stockett said he thinks it is "over-ridingly important" that a full-time director for the center be hired immediately.

## Letters Worked

High attendance at Monday's meeting was attributed to a letter sent to parents from the Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) of the three local schools urging a show of support for the PTAs at the board meeting.

"You have tremendously shown

your support," Lincoln Primary School PTA President Tina Childs told the group, saying the PTA would forward to the school board at a future meeting concerns and needs relating to the local schools.

Her comment came after one audience member questioned the agenda, saying he thought most of those present were interested in discussion of an "imbalance of distribution of equipment" among the county's schools.

Ms. Childs asked that the parents meet with PTA officials separately while the board was in executive session, behind closed doors.

Leland Middle School PTA President Glenda Browning said the group agreed that it would talk together, identify parents' concerns and needs, then find positive ways to address them.

## Finding Solutions

"We're going to find solutions, not just point fingers," she said.

Like her, said North Brunswick High's PTSA President Polly Grady, some of the parents are "frustrated," wanting to help improve their children's schools and not always knowing how to go about it.

"It doesn't matter who you are or what you have, everybody wants something better for their children," she continued. "The PTA is going to be the vehicle for making requests to the board, but we realize we're not always going to get everything we ask for."

The PTAs plan to appear before the school board at a Feb. 8 policy workshop.

According to Ms. Child, the high turnout reflects changes in the overall northern Brunswick County area—greater organization of its residents, emerging of new leadership and increased involvement and interest in improving the community as a whole.

An increased level of parental involvement in the schools is evidenced in volunteers painting cafeterias at both Lincoln Primary and Leland Middle schools, participation in parenting workshops and in other PTA functions.

"We know we're not at par with some of the other schools and it's time to get on track. I think that's what we're ready to do," she said. "We want to find out ways to help the schools improve."

As an example, she cited one parent who recently videotaped activities at Southport Elementary School, just to give fellow PTA members a glimpse of what their own local school could be like.

## Other Business

In other business the school board: ■Set a workshop Saturday, Feb. 8, starting at 8 a.m. to review proposed

policy changes. The board's next regular meeting is Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the central office.

■Announced it would present its five-year construction plan to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners at that board's regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the commissioners' chambers at the Brunswick County Government Center. The plan calls for expansion and renovation of North Brunswick High School and construction of a new elementary school in the north attendance area, among other projects.

■Viewed a multimedia presentation by an Apple Computers sales representative on the "classroom of tomorrow".

■Heard that the new electrical contractor for Supply Elementary School, Robeson Electric of Lumberton, put more than 30 people on the job and has the project back on schedule. The previous contractor defaulted, putting work three to four weeks behind. The school is to be ready for occupancy in August.

■Heard that the central office

School Improvement Team will make presentations at each county school over the next few weeks, followed by a retreat for school principals and their School Improvement contact persons and then organization of similar teams by each school.

■Adopted a resolution from the North Carolina Parent Teacher Association supporting mandatory drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers. Brunswick County already has a testing program in place.

■Heard from Assistant Superintendent Bill Turner that the school system is recommending that the state Department of Transportation install flashing lights at two Leland area intersections, U.S. 74-76 and Lanvale Road and Old Fayetteville Road and Lanvale Road.

■Heard from Turner that construction of bleachers at North Brunswick High School will begin before Jan. 28 and will be completed within 90 days. This schedule should allow the school more time to raise its \$25,000 share of the project cost.

# Board Expected To Name Supply School Principal

BY SUSAN USHER

A principal for the new Supply Elementary School was expected to be chosen Wednesday night by the Brunswick County Board of Education.

After meeting behind closed doors for one and one-half hours Monday night discussing personnel and attorney-client matters, the board recessed its meeting (held at North Brunswick High School in Leland) until 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the central office in Southport.

Superintendent P.R. Hankins said he hopes the board will select a principal at that time. Citing the absence of District I board member Doug Baxley, attorney Glen Peterson said he thought Hankins wanted to give the full board an opportunity to consider the candidate he is recommending for the job.

Of about 21 applicants, Hankins said 10 met the qualifications. Seven were from within the county system and three were from outside.

The school system is looking for an administrator to take a creative lead in making the school a model, innovative facility.

"We don't want one like we have," said Hankins. He didn't rule out the possibility, however, that a local educator might be chosen for the job, saying, "It is possible for it to be someone local who has a vision but hasn't had an opportunity to express it."

With the school scheduled to open in August, Hankins said, "There are a lot of things to be done and time is moving away."

"We want this person to have ample time to dream, to project and to plan."

Among other things the new school administrator will be touring other exemplary schools to see what is being done elsewhere, pulling together a staff and planning the structure of the school and its instructional approaches.

Once the superintendent makes a recommendation regarding a personnel matter, the board considers it and either approves the candidate or rejects him or her. If the first recommendation isn't approved, then staff comes back with an alternative candidate.

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# Yaupon Beach Man Hit By Car Dies

A pedestrian was killed Friday evening after being struck by a vehicle on Yaupon Drive in Yaupon Beach.

Grover Pue, 73, of 212 Sellers St., was crossing Yaupon Drive at Norton Street when he walked into the path of a car driven by Earl Cranford Fann, 53, of Long Beach, Yaupon Beach Police Chief Aubrey Hickman reported.

Investigating Officer C.W. Sewell indicated the driver did not see the victim until after he had been struck. Pue was thrown approximately 35 feet from the point of impact, the report stated.

Hickman said Tuesday afternoon that no charges have been filed.

## Leland Wrecks

Two accidents were reported at the same location Friday afternoon on U.S. 74-76 at Leland. One involved two cars around 5:20 p.m. and another involved five cars around 5:45 p.m.

In the first accident, Barbara Delena Moore, 21, of Clinton was charged with an unsafe movement violation, State Highway Trooper D.B. Harvell reported.

According to Harvell's report, Ms. Moore was traveling west on U.S. 74-76 when she switched lanes in front of a 1977 Chevrolet driven by Robert Oliver Walker Jr., 31, of Leland.

Walker applied his brakes but struck Ms. Moore's car in the rear, Harvell reported.

There were no injuries. Damage was listed at \$2,000 to both vehicles.

The second accident occurred in westbound traffic that had stalled from the first accident. Three cars collided when one driver failed to slow down, reported Harvell. Two other cars later struck the pile-up around 5:45 p.m.

Two drivers, Frances Strickland Cartrette, 31, of Reigelwood, and

Jonas Lee Webb, 74, of Delco, were both charged with failure to reduce speed, Harvell reported.

According to Harvell's report, Ms. Strickland's 1976 Oldsmobile struck the rear of a 1986 Buick driven by Alton Leo Raynor, 63, of Leland, whose vehicle then ran into the rear of a 1984 Ford driven by Beatrice Parker, 29, of Wilmington.

The three cars came to rest partially on the shoulder of the roadway, Harvell reported.

A fourth vehicle, a 1989 Ford driven by Kimberly Wilson Overton, 18, of Wilmington, had slowed for that accident when her car was struck in the rear by a 1979 Chevrolet driven by Webb, Harvell stated.

Damage was listed at \$800 to the Parker vehicle; \$4,000 to the Raynor vehicle; \$500 to the Cartrette vehicle; \$3,000 to the Overton vehicle and \$1,000 to the Webb vehicle.

Ms. Parker received minor injuries and was taken to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington by ambulance.

## Two Injured

Two people were injured Saturday evening in a two-car accident on U.S. 17 less than a mile south of Shallotte.

Harvell charged an Ash resident, Henry Mack Daniels, 78, with an unsafe movement violation following the 5:45 p.m. accident.

According to Harvell, Daniels attempted to make a left turn into a driveway when his 1981 Ford was struck by a 1988 Pontiac driven by Charles Melvin Collins, 46, of Fairfield.

Both Daniels and a passenger in Collins' car, Hellener Collins, 45, received minor injuries and were taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Damage was estimated at \$2,000 to the Collins vehicle and \$1,500 to the Daniels vehicle.

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