

School Board Investigating Allegations At South High

The Brunswick County Board of Education is expanding its investigation of an incident that allegedly occurred on or about Jan. 24 in a South Brunswick High School classroom.

A concerned South Brunswick High School parent, Marshall Evans, asked the board at its meeting Monday night to not only fully investigate the matter, but to report to the public its findings regarding rumors circulating primarily in the Southport-Oak Island area about the alleged incident that reportedly involved "a sexual act in a classroom".

He wants the rumors either proven or disproven because he said the incident has been unsettling and distracting to both school and community.

"If it did occur...my kids are not going to school to be exposed to that," said Evans. "Whether it happened or whether this is some kind of weird joke, it's a disgrace to the school system...This kind of environment is not conducive to learning."

Chairman Donna Baxter and Attorney Glen Peterson said the alleged incident is under investigation, but that staff has so far not been able to ascertain what actually happened.

Following an executive session, Peterson said the board is expanding the scope of the investigation. The members, he said, "are determined that if answers can be found and action taken they will do it," using whatever resources are available.

School Board Fills Two Administrative Vacancies

Brunswick County Board of Education members Monday night named Diana Mintz the new interim elementary supervisor for the central office.

Mrs. Mintz, of Bolivia, is assistant principal of South Brunswick Middle School. She will succeed Diane Paquin, who resigned last year to accept a job in private industry.

Doyle Brinson of Southport will serve as interim assistant principal at South Brunswick Middle. A social studies teacher, he has past experience as an assistant principal in another school system, said Ralph Ward, personnel director.

The board did not fill another administrative vacancy, the assistant principalship of Bolivia Elementary School. That position became vacant with the appointment of Carolyn Williams as principal of Supply Elementary School.

In other personnel matters Monday night, the board:

- Approved the hiring of Betty Keane of Yaupon Beach, interim English teacher at South Brunswick High; Catherine Strickland of Southport, interim social studies teacher, South Brunswick Middle; Inez Freeman, Ash, custodian, Union Primary; Holly Grimwood, Southport, interim custodian, Southport Elementary; Julius Brown, Southport, custodian, South Brunswick Middle; Janice Brown, Leland, interim cafeteria worker, Lincoln Primary; Charles Bruce, Bolivia, custodian, South Brunswick High; and Esau David, Leland, custodian, Leland Middle;

- Granted leaves of absence to Marguerite York, French teacher, Shallotte Middle; Cynthia Reaves, Ineatha Marlowe and Cynthia Hill, teacher assistants, Union Primary; and

- Accepted the resignations of Pearlene Motley, Shallotte, Union Primary; and Helen Laugisch, Supply, South Brunswick High.

Prospective Nursing Students Need To Begin Applying Now

The March 16 deadline's approaching for those interested in applying for admission into the practical nursing program at Brunswick Community College this September.

Only 25 students are accepted each year into the one-year program, which qualifies students to write the licensing exam for practical nursing.

Prospective applicants must complete the ASSET, a student assessment and orientation at BCC, during March.

The ASSET orientation for prospective nursing students will be offered at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 17, and at 2 p.m. Friday, March 6.

Those who wish to take the ASSET for nursing students need to contact the college's Student Services Department to reserve a space at a convenient time. The department can be reached at 754-6950, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

As a head start, prospective students may begin taking some of the required courses before being admitted into the nursing program, according to Connie Milliken, director of nursing.

Non-clinical courses such as general psychology, composition and anatomy and physiology, for example, are offered spring quarter at BCC. Registration for these courses is Tuesday, March 10.

ERRORS, FORGERIES NOTED

Petition Won't Halt New Garbage Contract

BY TERRY POPE

A stack of papers bearing hundreds of signatures protesting Brunswick County's new garbage disposal contract also contains a number of surprises.

Of the 1,567 names on the petition, only 1,487 were legible, said Kelly Barefoot, clerk to the Brunswick County Commissioners.

Of those names, only 817 match with the county's registered voters or property tax listings. Officials also believe that many names were not signed by the actual persons.

The petitions were presented to commissioners Jan. 21 to protest the county's decision to hire Waste Industries Inc. of Raleigh to begin hauling the county's trash March 1.

Commissioners haven't indicated they are wavering on their 3-2 decision to hire Waste Industries. They have given County Manager David Clegg no instructions to halt the deal.

"Other than to go ahead full steam," said Clegg.

Some names on the sheets are repeated. Groups of names are obviously written in the same handwriting.

One bears the name of a "Ladane Burlington, 1814 Ocean Isle Drive." The former mayor of Ocean Isle Beach spells her name, "LaDane Bullington."

"You would think that a person would know how to spell their own name," said Ms. Barefoot.

Two businesses, Sellers Auto and Carolina Strip Boats, are also listed on the petitions. Names of persons from Calabash, Shallotte, Bolivia, Winnabow, Leland and other rural areas have been signed to the sheets.

One version of the petition, filled

with grammatical errors, states:

"Brunswick County Solid Waste has been giving away. Your tax dollars is going out of the county to another county. This was a public bid and it was bidden away without public comment or concern.

"If you want to give your opinion and let them commissioners know how you feel about this issue, sign this petition and show your support, and keep our landfill for Brunswick County."

Another petition states:

"Brunswick County Solid Waste 1) has been given away; 2) your tax dollars are going into another county; 3) your landfill will be a dumping ground for another county, free of charge; 4) a public service was bidden away without public notice or public comment; 5) your dump sites will be reduced from over 50 to less than 20; 6) if you want to do something about this decision, let your county commissioners know how you feel."

After the Jan. 21 meeting, District 4 Commissioner Frankie Rabon requested that Ms. Barefoot compile an alphabetized list of names on the sheets and to try to verify them.

The petition also includes the name of Ms. Barefoot's brother-in-law, with the name of his business spelled incorrectly. Two names belong to friends of hers who have moved to Wilmington, she said.

Commissioners advertised and opened bids from three firms. Waste Industries, which is under contract in Southport and Long Beach, submitted the low bid of \$561,000 per year to haul the county's garbage and to operate 10 recycling stations.

For years, commissioners have

discussed the possibility of hiring a private firm to collect garbage in an attempt to save the county money. For 1991-92, the county budgeted \$878,000 for trash collection. Sixteen county employees cut under the contract have been guaranteed jobs on a probationary status with Waste Industries.

"They (commissioners) have not shirked from explaining it," said County Manager David Clegg.

Brunswick County will still operate the landfill in Supply and will turn away trash hauled in from other counties, said Clegg.

The contract with Waste Industries will be finalized when bonding documents arrive at Clegg's office.

Two of the three commissioners who voted to hire Waste Industries have announced they will not seek re-election this year—Chairman Kelly Holden of District 1 and Gene Pinkerton of District 3.

Rabon, who requested the verified list of petitioners, voted against the garbage contract along with District 5 Commissioner Donald Shaw. Rabon has not announced whether he will seek re-election to the District 4 seat.

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