

# Schools Request 8 Percent Increase In County Funding

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Even with a new elementary school nearing completion and computerization of all 12 Brunswick County schools, the proposed 1992-93 school budget exceeds last year's budget by only 9.5 percent.

The Brunswick County Board of Education met in special session Monday to finalize its budget proposal for submission to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners yesterday (Wednesday).

Of a total current expense budget of \$9.9 million, commissioners are being asked to provide \$7.5 million, an increase of \$615,000 or 8 percent over last year.

In addition, the county is asked to appropriate \$924,900 of the \$2.9 million capital outlay budget. Of this, \$250,000 is a special capital request to begin the purchase of instructional computers that will eventually total \$1.25 million.

Rudena (Rudie) Fallon, finance officer for the schools, said it is requested that \$250,000 be contributed each year through the 1996-97 school year to fund the computer program in full.

Other capital items appearing in the budget are two new yellow buses, costing \$64,000 and bringing the fleet to 135 buses; a vehicle washer at \$38,500; and a school sewer plant upgrade, tagged at \$75,000.

High on the priority list is a new cafeteria at Southport Primary School, at a suggested cost of \$750,000. This outdated, overcrowded facility would be partitioned into classrooms, eliminating the need for the trailers presently used at the school.

Construction of a new central office is proposed at the government center in Bolivia, at a cost of \$1.2 million over a two-year period.

Most of the increase in operating expenses is attributed to a 6 percent salary increase for all teachers.

"I understand this is a statewide norm," said board member Polly Russ.

Otherwise, many expenses are directly tied to the opening of the new school in Supply, where new personnel such as a librarian and custodian, must be hired, and new furniture and equipment purchased.

The board agreed to increase the presence of law enforcement officers in the county's three high schools. Officers were assigned the first time only a few weeks ago.

"They were in the schools just four hours a day this past year, but we decided to make them full-time," she said, "so that salary figure would go up from \$32,000 to \$55,000."

Instructional staff that would accompany computers in all the schools is another addition to personnel and

operating expenses.

"I think we were very conservative this year," said Russ, "and, while we had plenty of discussion of different items, there was no disagreement. I'm particularly glad we could get on schedule with the last step of teachers' salary increases, since they were frozen last year."

In addition to the proposed budget, the school board approved a four-day summer work week for central office staff and 12-month employees. From June 15 to Aug. 10 offices will be open Mondays through Thursdays, from 7:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. and closed on Fridays, giving employees a 40-hour work week.

Employees with unused annual leave days may choose to work only 32 hours a week, using the Fridays as annual leave days.

## Success For Every Student Aim Of Comprehensive Management

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Faculty members gathered in the library at South Brunswick Middle School (SBMS) last Wednesday afternoon may have been confused about some details of the Comprehensive Schools program they were adapting for their school, but the basic idea was clear to them.

When Principal Les Tubb, leading their discussion, called out, "What are we about here?" their answer was, without hesitation, "Success for every child."

This is the battle cry, Tubb said, of the Effective Schools program being implemented by SBMS this year, and he considers the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) a set of strategies for transforming its ideas into reality.

CMP is a concept aimed at identifying and intervening with at-risk students that has been adopted by South Brunswick High School and will be implemented there this fall.

SBMS is not far behind. Dismissing students early last Wednesday, Tubb and his teachers spent two hours in general discussion of future CMP innovations, then met in separate committees that continued meeting for another two

hours. The faculty was open to potential changes, but not always sure how some of them would work in practice.

In examining the concept of "Re-teach, Re-Test," for example, a teacher explained it this way: "If a kid makes a failing grade on a test, the teacher would go over the part he didn't understand after school that day or the next. Then he would be re-tested on it until his grade improved."

Another teacher immediately presented a challenge: "What about the student who gets it right the first time? Is it fair if they end up with the same grade?"

Tubb said, unequivocally, "Yes," and asked the crucial question, "What are we about?" with the chorus of response, "Success for every child." He went on to point out that everyone learns at different levels and that the important issue was achieving the goal of learning.

"Re-teaching and re-testing shows that six minutes of one-on-one with a child accomplishes more than a whole class period," Tubb said. "But what are the students doing who learned

quickly?" the quizzical teacher asked.

"They'll be going on with the coursework," Tubb replied, "because re-teaching is done after school. Also, the opportunity is open to everyone, even the good students."

Tubb said later that much of the CMP cannot be implemented by middle schools, and that only one other middle school in the state, in Elizabeth City, is even attempting it. "We are already doing some of the elements of comprehensive schools," he went on, "such as personal advisers for kids and identifying at-risk students."

Other elements are collaboration of teachers and involvement of community and home; Tubb's faculty is working on these.

"As you look at change," he noted, "you get frustrated by what you don't understand, but we're willing to try new things."

One effort will be the extended day program, another part of CMP, and, said Tubb, another will be getting more parents involved.

Whatever strategies they adopt, he said he keeps his eye on the basic goal, the premise of Effective Schools: "Every child can learn."

## Brunswick County Man Accused Of Tax Evasion

A Long Beach man has been charged with four counts of failing to file federal income tax returns for 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988.

According to U.S. Attorney Margaret Person Curran of the Eastern District of North Carolina, criminal charges were filed in federal court against Miles Anthony Smith, 42.

He is accused of failing to report to the Internal Revenue Service gross incomes of approximately \$74,710.78 for 1985; \$66,002.28 for 1986; \$63,859.20 for 1987; and \$71,253.16 for 1988.

If convicted of the charges, Smith could face a maximum sentence of

\$400,000 in fines, four years in prison, or both.

A court appearance has not been scheduled.

Wednesday, April 15, was the deadline for filing 1991 federal and state income tax returns.

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## Officials To Hear About Septic Tank Management

Elected officials will learn about septic tanks and how local governments can manage them at an educational forum next week in Supply.

Brunswick County's Cooperative Extension Service is coordinating the meeting to be held Wednesday, April 22, at 7 p.m. in the teaching auditorium at Brunswick Community College.

The education program is being offered as a result of a new coalition of elected officials from local towns, according to cooperative extension agent Billy Privette.

Representatives from nine municipalities attended the organization's first meeting about a month ago. Privette said the group identified wastewater management as the biggest issue affecting local towns.

"This is just the most important, pressing issue they felt right now," Privette said. "We've had contact from 10 towns who say they will have officials there, so they definitely feel it is important."

Holden Beach Commissioners thought the issue was important enough to change their regular meet-

ing date so it wouldn't conflict with the program.

Officials in Calabash and Sunset Beach are considering sewer systems to serve their communities. Long Beach voters recently defeated a proposal to sell bonds to finance a sewer system.

Privette said the meeting will focus on the establishment of wastewater management entities which can monitor septic tanks.

Milton Heath, assistant director of the N.C. Institute of Government in Chapel Hill, will discuss the legalities of local government involve-

ment in septic tank management.

Michael Hoover, a soil scientist and expert in home waste management with N.C. State University, will explain the operations and maintenance of septic tanks.

Privette said the meeting is open to the public, but it is being held primarily for the elected officials who may have to deal with the complexities of setting up wastewater management systems in the future.

## Two Arrested For Bogus Checks Passing Here

Two men accused of cashing counterfeit checks at four local businesses remained in Brunswick County Jail Tuesday.

Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause said the men were arrested Saturday night after one of them tried to cash a bogus check at Food Lion.

Pt. Tom Hunter and Det. Carey Gaskins arrested John Foster McBride, 24, of Holden, Mo., and Roy Earl Johnson, 34, of Topeka, Kan.

Gause said the two suspects had been staying at a residence near Seaside, where police later found

paraphernalia used to print counterfeit checks.

McBride, who allegedly tried to cash a phony check at Food Lion, was charged with three counts of uttering and was being held under \$35,000 bond.

Johnson was being held under \$50,500 bond after being charged with four counts of forgery, Gause said.

Police also charged Johnson with carrying a concealed weapon after they reportedly found a loaded and cocked .22-caliber revolver on the front seat of a vehicle in the food store parking lot.

Gause said someone from the grocery store called police around 6:35 p.m. Saturday after a man attempted to cash what looked like a counterfeit check.

The police chief said authorities know the men cashed at least four counterfeit checks in Shallotte, and possibly more.

Gause said both men are wanted on related charges in Kansas, and McBride is also wanted in Missouri.

The chief said he expects more charges to be filed. "Between here and Kansas we think we're going to find a lot more checks," he said Tuesday.

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