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15 CENTS

Board considers industry's role in education

By KATHY M. NEWBERN

A two-hour discussion on the possible role business and industry can play in public education highlighted Monday night's regular meeting of the Perquimans County Board of Education.

Meeting with the board for that purpose was Brooks Whitehurst, Liaison for Business and Education for North Carolina. Whitehurst is employed with Texasgulf, Inc. and is on one-year loan to the state in his present position.

Accompanying Whitehurst Monday night were five professional people working in a consulting capacity with Sun Co., Inc. of Radnor, Pa., an energy industry interested in public education.

Heading that group was Jim Shearer, public relations person with Sun. Also present were June Lytle, professor of English at Villanova University, Pa.; Edward Ditterline, a film writer and producer; Jerry Naidus of The JN Company, producers of educational materials and communications programs; and Larry Keating, president of Keating Productions, filmmakers.

Following introductions, the meeting was turned over to Whitehurst for opening comments. He began, by saying, "I don't have a program," and continued to explain that the group was present to "get a feel for the needs of the Perquimans

County Schools as viewed by the school board and the school administration." He added that the meeting was also held to explain that "there are resources available in industry, and industry wants to help provided they can understand the needs."

Whitehurst explained that about 50 counties in North Carolina are small and without large industry. For that reason, he said, some international companies have been recruited to help out in looking at possible avenues for the involvement in public education. He explained that one possibility is involvement of human resources in the business community to help students. He added that several such meetings and interviews have been held nationwide and the recurring theme seems to be that business can offer help in the area of career education.

Shearer then added some background information explaining that his group, Sun Co., Inc., feels a real need to consider its "social responsibility" and feels one way to deal with this is through work in education. He assured the board members and the seven local school administrators present at the meeting that his was "not a big company with more money than it needs."

After additional background information was presented, the meeting was opened up for comments from the local administrators

and board members concerning the needs of the county and their ideas on how business and industry could help meet those needs.

Ken Stalls who is currently employed to compile a feasibility study for the proposed tri-county career center explained that concept. He said, "We feel we can develop a center with assistance from agencies like this, from Brooks, from our governor, and from our state."

Shearer then related experiences he had had with adults in the job market and the trauma they experience when suddenly unemployed. He explained that if adults have difficulty coping with that type of situation, then perhaps those experiences could be related to students to help prepare them for their roles in society after graduation. He explained that he sees a need for awareness among students in acknowledging their skills, abilities, and future options in the career world.

Local Superintendent Pat Harrell replied, "I think the need goes beyond awareness. It goes beyond the development of a film. I think we've got to talk with people, be involved with people." He added that before students can be taught to understand their choices, teachers and administrators must first be taught these same concepts of awareness. Board Chairman Clifford Winslow responded, "I certainly think there

has to be cooperation between a school system and business and industry because business and industry depends on the product our school system puts out." And, in responding to the question of the local school system's needs, Winslow commented, "We need to educate the public as to what the school system is trying to do." He used as an example the board's feeling that a new high school is needed in the community. He explained that the public is not aware of this need, or is in disagreement, due to the defeat last November of the proposed bond referendum.

The discussion then turned to involvement of the public in education and the community schools concept.

Then, turning the emphasis back to young people, Shearer said, "The kids are savable. I'm not so sure the adults are savable. And I'm not even sure the adults are worth saving."

In response, Chairman Winslow pointed out that these adults are the current taxpayers. He said, "Those taxes come from those 'unsavables' as you say."

Shearer responded that while the public may need educating as to what schools are trying to do, he feels a "far more serious problem" is keeping students in a community. He asked the local board about the problem of Perquimans students graduating and leaving the community.

Several comments were then made concerning the new idea of in-

dustry wanting to make an input into the community. Stalls related his observation that businesses have a sole interest in "turning a profit." And, he related the attitude that business has traditionally been interested in having schools turn out a product they can employ without additional cost for training.

Those present agreed and explained that their whole purpose in being at Monday night's meeting was to discuss this new attitude of involvement on the part of business. Shearer responded to Stalls' observation by saying, "I think you're dead right."

In closing comments, Chairman Winslow said, "Hopefully something good will come out of this. I feel it's a step in the right direction."

Following the meeting, Whitehurst was asked to assess the discussion. He commented, "My assessment of the meeting was very good. These people (those accompanying him) needed to hear exactly what people like Mr. Winslow had to say. In terms of where I fit into this program, my job is, in a sense, to find a school system that is interested in the use of outside resources and then bring those resources in for a discussion."

AGENDA MATTERS

The board then moved into discussion of other matters on the agenda.

In action taken, the board approved the employment of Cheryl Anita Newby as first grade teacher at

Hertford Grammar School, and Nanette Cohoon as primary reading aide at Hertford Grammar.

Superintendent Harrell announced that Central Grammar School had 80 percent of its parents to attend a parent conference day Oct. 9. He said, "It went very well. I think it's a plus factor and shows parents are very interested." He commended the principal and staff at the school for using this approach.

In the area of administrative operations, the board approved another three-year rental agreement with Bertie County Schools for lights at the Perquimans High School athletic field. These have been rented the past three years at a cost of \$200 per year. That figure will remain the same.

Superintendent Harrell presented projected pupil population data to the board members for their information and said, "They show a continual decline in student population in Perquimans County over the years."

Harrell also informed the board that application has been made for continuing liability coverage for individual members and the board collectively.

Before adjourning, the board agreed to hold a special meeting Oct. 18 at 8 a.m. for the purpose of reviewing bids for the renovation and construction project at Perquimans High School.

Commissioners discuss county participation in computer project

By PAIGE EURE

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday night to discuss and take action on several matters.

The board first heard a presentation by Bill Oetker, Director of the Computer Project for the six-county Alliance for Progress area, and Richard Baker, AFP Director, requesting approximately \$8,419 for the county's contribution to the project. That contribution would entitle the county to computer services.

When asked if a need for the computer services exists, Clifford Winslow, Chairman of the local Board of Education, replied, "We

could use it right much in the school system." Later, he added, "As time goes on, we could use it more and more."

The board decided to take time to discuss the matter in more detail and agreed to make a decision at their next meeting.

In other business, a delegation from the Perquimans County Youth Council, headed by its president, Gary Bryant, appeared before the board to request assistance for four of the group's members to attend the Youth Legislative Assembly in Asheville Nov. 10-12. They explained that representation at the meeting is needed to apply for a mini-grant for playground equipment. Each county

is required to pay \$100 for transportation costs to the meeting. The local group has received a \$50 donation from the Memory Lane Senior Citizens Club for this purpose.

A motion to donate the remaining needed \$50 was approved by the board.

Pete Overton, representative with Nationwide Insurance, recommended that the board purchase five fire extinguishers to be placed in the ARPDC-Perquimans County Office Building, and nine for the county courthouse, and five for the health department building. The board approved the recommendation and Chairman Lester Simpson was authorized to contact a local supplier to have these installed.

A contribution of \$25 for the Caswell Center to be applied toward the purchase of Christmas items for the children there was approved. The same action was taken last year.

Before adjourning, the board heard from Paul Gregory, Director of the Perquimans County Social Services Department, concerning a proposal for a four-county transportation system for senior citizens and handicapped persons. Two board members attended a meeting to discuss the proposal last week and following that discussion, the board went on record Monday night voting against the county's participation in the project.

VEPCO's rate reduction will affect local electric co-op

Virginia Electric and Power Co. has agreed to reduce its latest bulk power rate increase affecting electric cooperatives in Virginia and North Carolina, according to an announcement last week by officials of the co-ops.

The agreement will mean that the wholesale power rates charged by VEPCO for electricity flowing to six northeastern North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations will rise by about 17 percent.

VEPCO had originally proposed

increasing the rates by about 20 percent, but agreed to adopt the lower rates after a series of negotiation sessions between the power company and the cooperatives.

"We had hoped to secure an even lower rate, but accepted this level because settling the case at this stage will save the co-ops the expense and frustration of a lengthy battle over the rates before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which could take up to three years," said Jim Hubbard, executive vice president of the statewide organization of North Carolina EMC's.

North Carolina EMC, the power supply arm of the statewide organization, represents all of the

state's 28 EMC's in all rate negotiations with the investor-owned power companies, which supply most of the co-ops' power. The EMC's currently have no generating facilities and must purchase power at bulk rates from the private companies for resale to their consumer-members.

"Although we're not overjoyed with the settlement rate, it does offer our EMC's some savings compared to the original rate that VEPCO had filed with the FERC," Hubbard added. "It compares favorably with the 17.8 percent rate increase that went into effect Sept. 1 for VEPCO's retail customers."

The original wholesale rate proposal went into effect Sept. 30, after the effective date was delayed by the

FERC for a month.

The settlement rate, which must now be submitted to FERC for approval, is to be effective through Sept. 1979, Hubbard added.

"By the end of the next year, we expect to be ready to sign a contract with VEPCO to buy a share in the company's nuclear generating plants. Once that contract is executed, we will no longer be involved in these kinds of rate cases with VEPCO."

The six North Carolina EMC's affected by the VEPCO rates are Albemarle, Hertford; Cape Hatteras, Buxton; Edgecombe-Martin County, Asheboro; Halifax, Enfield; Roanoke, Rich Square; and Tideland, Pantego.



WILLIAM W. REID



DR. VANCE EUGENE HAMILTON

Speakers named for upcoming banquet

The Albemarle Area Vegetable Garden Production and Food Conservation Association will host its annual banquet on Friday, Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at Angler's Cove Restaurant here.

Special speaker for the event will be William W. Reid, Extension Horticultural Specialist. He is a graduate of N.C. State University with a B.S. degree and did further study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He served in World War II with the First Allied Airborne Army. During his stay in service, he won four battle stars in the European theatre. He has had the following work experience: Horticulturist-in-charge, Coastal Plain Vegetable Research Station, Faison, N.C.; Superintendent, Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Station, Fletcher, N.C.; and Extension Horticultural Specialist, Tidewater Research Station, Plymouth, N.C. He has published 68 scientific articles.

Also presenting special greetings at the Friday night banquet will be Dr. Vance Eugene Hamilton, Extension District Program Leader for Community Development, N.C. Agricultural Extension Service at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Dr. Hamilton has served 39 eastern North Carolina counties. He is an Associate Professor and member of the graduate faculty of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at N.C. State University. Prior work experience includes teaching vocational agriculture, technical institute administrator, county extension agent, and serving 10 years as community development specialist.

He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural education and a doctorate in adult education from N.C. State. His special interests include community development, health, and administration.

Additional arrests made

The Hertford Police Department has made two more arrests in association with a break-in at Scotties Store reported Oct. 4.

One arrest in the case was made Oct. 6 and Police Chief Marshall Merritt reported that two more persons were arrested Oct. 11.

Charged with breaking and entering and larceny are Toni Parker, 23, of P.O. Box 161, Winfall, and Rosemary Lathan, 19, of 205 Brace St., Hertford. Ms. Lathan has been released from the Tri-County Jail on

\$1,000 bond. Parker remains in Tri-County under \$1,000 bond.

Tommy Allen Whitehurst, 21, 310 Covent Garden, Hertford was the first charged in connection with the break-in and he remains in Tri-County Jail under \$3,000 bond.

During the break-in at Scotties,

Perquimans Democratic Party Plans Meeting

Archie T. Lane Sr., Chairman of the Perquimans County Democratic Party, has announced a countywide party meeting for Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. in the courthouse.

approximately \$700 worth of merchandise, mainly watches and cigarettes was taken. Part of that stolen merchandise was recovered at the time of the first arrest and the police department reports that the investigation to uncover the remaining stolen goods is continuing.

Party Plans Meeting

He said that members of the county's executive committee, the Perquimans County Young Democrats, and all local Democrats are encouraged to attend the meeting.

County unemployment drops

The unemployment rate for Perquimans County dropped to 2.6 percent in August, 1978 from a 5.5 percent figure for the year 1977. This compares with a national average of 6.4 percent as of June 30, 1978.

Bouncing back for a long hard recession, the area has shown much

progress job-wise according to figures released by Mrs. Alice W. Bond, Manager of the Edenton Employment Security Commission Office.

The Edenton ESC Office serves Chowan, Gates, Perquimans and Tyrrell counties on a daily basis. Ac-

tivity in the four counties for the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 1978 shows that 3,491 persons were registered for work, 536 individuals were counseled, 355 individuals were tested, 1,386 persons were placed on jobs and 162 food stamp and welfare recipients were placed on jobs.