

The Perquimans County School System

Volume 1

"Committed to Caring, Sharing and Learning"

Number 1

The Board Chairman Speaks

Perquimans County Schools are committed to caring, sharing, and learning. We are small compared to many systems, but we should never apologize for our size. I believe the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages.

Because of the following reasons, I believe that our school system is good and getting better:

1. The elected Board of Education is dedicated to providing the very best opportunities for all children.

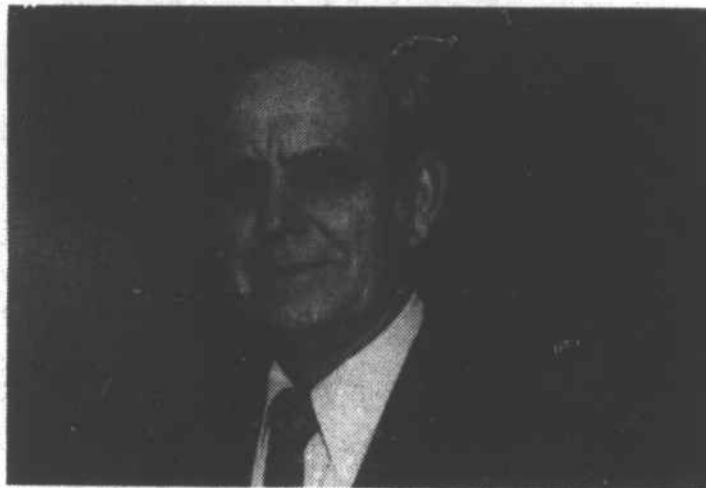
2. The superintendent is second to none in the state. Mr. Harrell is constantly seeking new methods for improvement. His enthusiasm for public education is contagious to his associates. This attitude results in better performance from principals and staff.

3. The central office staff goes beyond the call of duty on many occasions to provide services that make a difference for children.

4. The professional staff of principals and teachers care for the children of Perquimans County. They will attempt to go the extra step to meet their needs.

5. The non-professional people, who are involved in

the behind-the-scene jobs, are committed to preparing and serving hot lunches, cleaning the building, providing help in the classrooms (aides), maintaining the facilities, etc.



Clifford Winslow, Board Chairman

I am proud to be a part of an organization that is committed to caring and sharing so that our children can learn in Perquimans County.

Regardless of our role in public education, we all have one thing in common — the training of young minds to become productive citizens of the future.

You as parents and tax payers also have an im-

This 1981-82 Annual Report is a publication of the Perquimans County Community Schools Program.

Superintendent's Message

Dear Parents and Citizens:

If this letter contained only one thought, it would be that our schools have done and are



Pat Harrell

doing a tremendous job in trying times. Our schools have been about the task of offering universal education, of assuring that the opportunity to acquire an education is provided to each and every student. The extension of that opportunity to handicapped children, to the mentally retarded, to all who form a part of our total society has at times been difficult. We have been able to overcome the obstacles through a board of education committed to providing improved learning opportunities, a dedicated staff, a concerned school administration, and the ever present support of our parents and county commissioners.

Many exciting things are taking place in our schools. Our test scores have continuously been above the national average. Our dropout rate is decreasing each year, the result of expanded vocational, exceptional, and remedial programs. All our schools, as well as the central office, are in the process of becoming accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Teachers, administrative staff, parents and students are to be commended for their efforts. As a part of the accreditation process, a number of extensive renovation projects are being carried out in the schools. We are extremely proud of the recognition gained recently through our sports and band programs, but more importantly of the record of our students throughout the years.

We take pride in this first issue of our annual report to parents. This paper is designed to let you know what is going on in our school system, enabling you to become better informed citizens. Thank you again, parents and community, for your continued support.

Sincerely,
James P. Harrell
Superintendent

Schools Seek Accreditation

Perquimans County Schools is on its way to achieving the goal of having all schools and the central office accredited in 1982 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. After two years of very hard work, the Central Office, Hertford Grammar School and Perquimans Central School are awaiting recommendations from visiting teams which were here April 28-29, 1982. Perquimans Union School and Perquimans High School will host visiting teams in early September. Initial accreditation will be conferred on the schools and the system at the annual meeting of SACS in Atlanta on December 12-15, 1982.

The schools and the central office have been involved in a comprehensive self-study and self-evaluation. Through this in-depth assessment, the schools have determined strengths and needed improvements in terms of

Southern Association standards. Recognition of needed improvements and the development of strategies for attaining the needs is a requirement of accreditation.

Short and long range plans will provide direction for the next four years. During the fifth year after initial accreditation, an interim review is required to assess the status of accomplishing needed improvements. After ten years, a re-accreditation will be carried out again with another in-depth self-study. Initial accreditation is the beginning, not the end of the self-study process.

The Southern Association process has provided opportunities for schools and the central office to be drawn closer together as a working unit for school improvement. Southern Association gives the impetus to provide optimal educational opportunities for the students of Perquimans County.

Testing

Test scores are one indicator of the level of student attainment in the Perquimans County Schools. For the past four years we have been involved in the North Carolina State Annual Testing Program and the North Carolina High School Competency Testing Program. Local achievement testing was conducted in grades 4, 5, 7, 8 and 10 to supplement the state programs.

During this four-year period the percentage of students in grades one through ten who were above grade level increased 11.68% in Reading and 18.44% in Math. In April 1981 Perquimans County's achievement test average scores for all subject areas tested in grades 1, 2, 3 and 6 equalled or surpassed the Regional and State averages.

Of eleventh grade students who took the North Carolina High School Competency Test

for the first time, a higher percentage has passed over the last two years. Some credit for the improved scores should be given to the remediation department at Perquimans High. That department includes the Competency Review Lab, the CETA Essential Skills Lab, the EMH/LD Lab, and the Title I Reading and Math Labs. In October 1981, the percentage of first time test takers who passed was 91.7 in Reading and 88.1 in Math.

North Carolina
Competency
Test Program

NORTH CAROLINA
ANNUAL
TESTING PROGRAM

