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Board of Education lets bid for high school renovation project

By SUSAN HARRIS

The high school construction-renovation project will soon be off the drawing board and become a reality since the Board of Education awarded the project bids on Monday, August 16.

The Board chose Comanco, Inc. of Kinston to provide general contracting services for the project at a cost of \$1,488,887. The company will construct the additions and will demolish the north and south wings of the 1928 building.

White's Heating and Sheet Metal of Williamston is the Mechanical Contractor and will be paid \$250,800 for their services. Edenton-based Stille and Alexander Electrical Contractors were awarded the \$143,281 electrical contract. The buildings will be plumbed by Braxton Britt Plumbing and Heating, Inc. at a cost of \$85,000.

Board members met in a special session on Wednesday, August 11th to discuss the bids and

alternate bids which were initially about \$400,000 over the FmHA \$2,000,000 bond issue.

The north and south wings of the 1928 building will be torn down. New classrooms will be constructed there. On the south side of the 1928 structure, the facility will extend to the street. A new, larger cafeteria will be built between the auditorium and gym in what is now a parking lot. The present cafeteria will then house the art department.

New classrooms being added

will include three science classroom-labs and a handicapped classroom. The science department will be located on the north side of the gym. The performing arts department will have new classroom, storage and office space.

The auditorium is scheduled for complete renovation, although a funds shortage will prohibit the addition of full stage lighting. The basic electrical work for the lighting will, how-

ever, be installed.

All areas of the high school will have an air conditioning-heating system installed which will work on a well water system, work to begin any time.

Not included in the \$2,000,000 is furniture for the new classrooms and a new gymnasium roof. The total cost per square foot was figured by Architect Sam Ashford at approximately \$35, \$10 less than the \$45 per square foot average new construction cost. Work should begin on the project within 60 days.

The Board approved the addition of a one-half unit computer literacy credit as a graduation requirement in conjunction with state guidelines. According to high school principal William Byrum, every senior who has not previously taken a computer course is now enrolled in one. Byrum said that underclassmen are eligible to take the classes as space permits.

The only alternative to offering the one-half unit course is taking a student from a different course each week for a 30-minute computer class.

The Board approved the following prices for school meals

for the 1985-86 school year: Breakfast—K-6 40 cents; 7-12 45 cents; Reduced—K-12 30 cents; Adults—75 cents. Lunch—K-6 80 cents; 7-12 90 cents; Reduced—K-12 40 cents; Adults—\$1.50. Extra milk—25 cents.

Continental Baker (Wonder Bread) was awarded the school lunch program's bread contract. The company was low-bidder. The milk price was negotiated with Sealtest.

Non-certified personnel employed by the Board must now work 40 hours per week to receive full pay. Some personnel, in particular teacher's aides, were previously working only 35-37½ hours per week. The Board also authorized no overtime for the aides.

A parent whose family recently moved from Chesapeake to Holiday Island requested that the Board allow her child, who had failed the 8th grade last year in a Chesapeake school system, to enter the 9th grade at PCHS. After discussing the request, and broader repercussions of placing a child who failed a grade up into the next grade level, the Board unanimously rejected the request.

Back to School

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

Continuing a commitment to the theme of 'caring, sharing and learning' the four schools that comprise the Perquimans County School System opened their doors to approximately 1,760 students Monday morning.

Superintendent Pat Harrell stated that he anticipates the enrollment for the system to rise to approximately 1,780-1,800 students by the end of the week.

Harrell said that the systemwide theme, "Perquimans County Schools, Committed to Caring, Sharing and Learning" will be carried out this year with a continuation of focus on student achievement goals, concentrating on the standardized testing program.

The 'school climate' will be another focal point in the theme as facility improvements get underway along with building and grounds maintenance improvements.

A newly established staff development program will emphasize teacher effectiveness through additional teacher training.

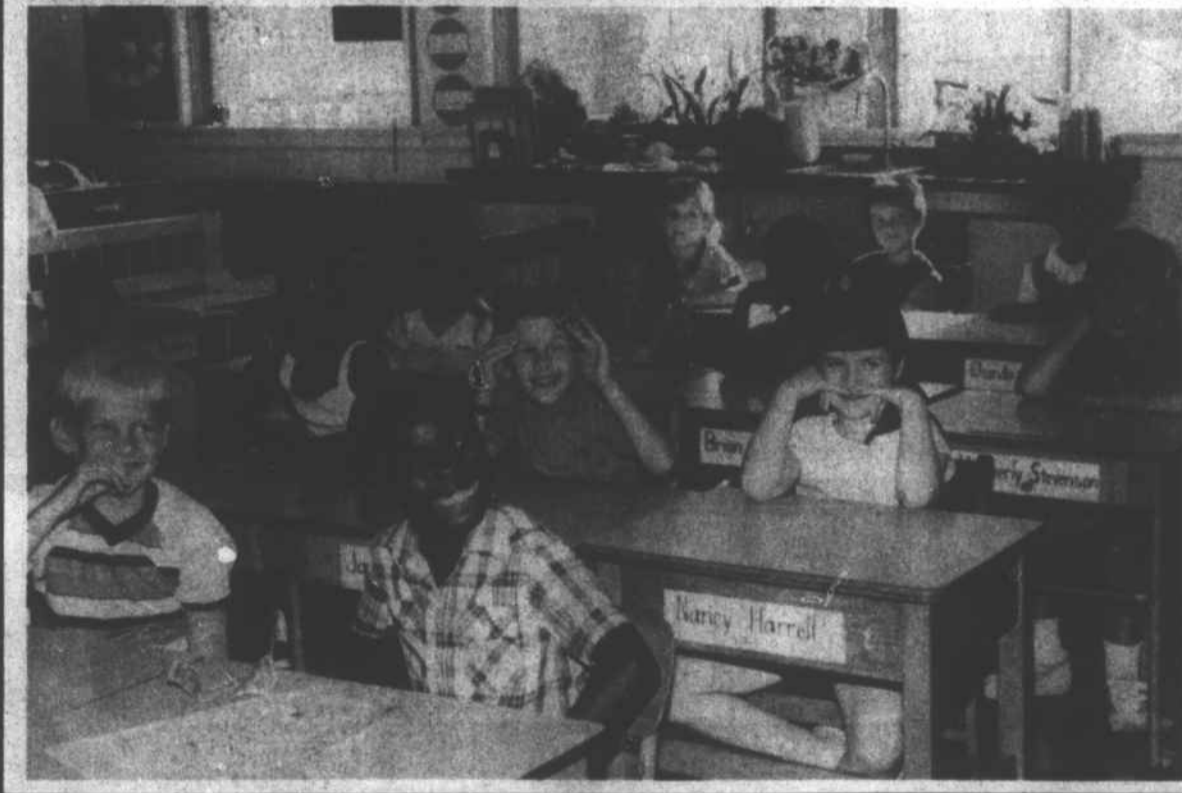
Students attending the county's schools this year in grades four through twelve will participate in a new computer literacy program funded by the state. The individual schools will establish a program that will provide each student with an average of 30-minutes per week at a computer. The funds will provide one computer for every 100 students in the targeted grade levels.

A new policy enacted this year in the system will require high school students to complete one-half unit in computer science prior to graduation.

Elementary school students will be introduced to new text books in science, health and reading-language.

According to Harrell the elementary art program has been revised this year to offer students in grades K-6 a greater frequency of art classes in comparison to recent years. Students will now participate in art activities every few weeks instead of one concentrated period each semester.

Hundreds of smiling and anxious faces lined the corridors at Perquimans Central School Monday morning as students returned to the classroom for the first time after summer vacation. (Photos by Jane Williams.)



Architectural firm contracted to evaluate potential use of Blanchard Building

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
Tentative plans to re-vamp the Blanchard Building on Church

Street in downtown Hertford won the support of the Perquimans County Commissioners last week when they accepted the proposal of an architectural firm to analyze the building and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of its use by the county.

Commissioner Chairman W.W. White, Jr. introduced the concept of study stating that the county was at a point that it needed more office space and that it "might be time to make plans for the future."

The commissioners voted to hire Vann and Andrews Architects to conduct an architectural analysis of the building at a maximum cost of \$3,500. The firm specializes in analysis of old structures, and is currently working on the renovation of the Gates County Courthouse.

Plans for the building, in addition to office space, include an additional courtroom for the

county, which was requested last year by the District Attorney's office to alleviate a back-up of district court cases during Superior Court sessions. Noting that this was not a formal request, the commissioners agreed that it was time to look into the possibilities for the future.

By planning to construct a courtroom in the building the county will be able to finance the cost of the building's study through Court Facility Funds.

The architectural firm will gather measurements and photographs within the building and analyze the building for fire protection. Load-bearing capacity of the walls will be studied as well as reinforcement possibilities for the second floor.

Upon completion of the building's analysis the firm will meet with the commissioners and aid them with preliminary floor plan sketches for the facility. Also included in the package will be a

preliminary budget plan for the building's renovation.

The Commissioners also accepted a low bid of \$28,600 from Motler Construction Company of Washington, N.C. to construct a garage and enclosed walkway adjacent to the Perquimans County Rescue Squad building.

No bid was accepted for concrete drives at the site. The commissioners agreed to solicit prices locally for driveway completion after the project is underway.

In other business the Board:

—Approved a request from Forrest Myers to designate a point on the county map as Holiday Island in a preliminary step to allow the state to erect directional signs for the development.

—Approved a resolution to allow county employees to participate in the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan.

Host of activities to highlight annual Summer Festival

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

In just two short weeks an air of celebration will fill the streets of Hertford as the fourth annual Indian Summer Festival gets underway in the town.



The festival, which is sponsored by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, has blossomed into a week-end that is anticipated throughout the year by locals and visitors as well.

Headlining the two-day event, scheduled for September 13-14, will be the area's merchants as they offer a "Colonial Day" to festival goers. The main attraction is an old fashioned sidewalk sale in downtown Hertford that

will be interspersed with food, displays and entertainment.

New this year will be an afternoon fashion show on the courthouse lawn coordinated by Judy Christensen of Darden Department Store.

There will be drawings for prizes throughout the day at various stores, and a sidewalk cafe will be operated from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for hungry shoppers.

Also taking place downtown will be contests, historic window displays, musical entertainment and a trick bicycle demonstration team.

A first come-first served Fish Fry will begin at Missing Mill Park at 5 o'clock and will continue until 7:00 p.m. to feed those on hand before they head out to the 60th meeting of the Perquimans Pirates and the Edenton Aces on Memorial Field at 8 o'clock.

Saturday, the 14th, will find a host of things to do and see at Missing Mill Park that promise fun for the entire family. Featured among the days events will be arts, crafts, food, games and music, winding down with the ever popular pig picking and street dance on Saturday night.

Round up your family and friends and be in Hertford for the excitement of the Fourth Annual Indian Summer Festival.

Committee members launch clean-up

By JANE B. WILLIAMS

Plans to clean-up the Town of Hertford during the month of September got off the ground Friday morning as a dozen residents and business people met at the Perquimans County Senior Citizens Center to form a committee to generate motivation and ideas.

Morris Kornegay, principal of Central Elementary School and a Hertford resident, was named chairman of the Clean-Up Hertford Committee.

The month of September was chosen by the town to implement clean-up activities after the state designated the month for statewide clean-up. The state conducts the campaign twice a year.

The committee discussed ways to approach property owners in 'trouble spots' and determined that they will contact those indi-

viduals by letter and ask for their support and help in creating a more desirable neighborhood.

An ongoing incentive program planned by the committee will be a "Lawn of the Month" and a "Business of the Month" recognition for property owners that show excellence in the maintenance of their properties.

The committee has requested that the Town Council provide more trash receptacles throughout the municipality to deter littering in the town.

A Merchants Clean-Up Day during the month was discussed by the group and will be one of the areas addressed at the next committee meeting.

Anyone interested in making suggestions to the committee is encouraged to contact Kornegay or Hertford Mayor Bill Cox.

THIS WEEK

"Welcome Home Jill" is the feature article on Page 8 of this edition. Little Jill Haskett has returned home to her family after a 16½ month stay in Duke Memorial Hospital in Durham.

The Perquimans Weekly office will be closed Monday for the Labor Day Holiday. The deadline for all news and advertising for the September 8th edition of the paper is 5:00 p.m. Friday.