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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 62, No. 14

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, April 22, 1993

35 Cents

## Teachers, aids to get increase

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Teachers and teacher assistants can look for an increase in pay next fiscal year, thanks to a school board decision Monday night to raise local supplements for both groups by \$50 per employee.

The move seemed doomed after initial discussion by the board. Board members spoke in favor of rewarding teachers and assistants, but when chairman Wayne Howell called for a motion to take action, the group fell silent. Howell moved down the agenda to deal with the next item of business when board member Wallace Nelson spoke up.

Nelson said the board probably got "carried away" when a supplement for office support personnel was approved last month, "but something has to be done about assistants' supplements. We need to go ahead and deal with it...I don't want us to just walk away from it."

After lengthy discussion about tying future supplements to merit, budget constraints and trying to remain competitive with surrounding school system's supplements, the board unanimously approved the \$50 increases.

The increases will cost the county \$8,050, probably from local funds. The move raised teacher supplements to \$400, teacher assistant supplements to \$100.

The board was also updated on the middle school renovation project. Superintendent Dr. Randall L. Henion said the project is still on schedule, with a mid-August completion date forecast.

"The architect is very optimistic about the project," Henion said.

Because the project as originally designed ran over budget, provisions were made for alternate projects. "Good fortune and a good contractor" have meant adding back some of those alternatives with no increase in cost, Henion said. The bus loop, an acoustical roof deck, tinted insulated glass, carpet, an air conditioning system upgrade, computer controls designed to increase the efficiency of the heating and air conditioning system, and teacher work stations have been added back in to the project due to savings along the way. The teacher work stations will be built by staff members following HBA Architect's design. Henion said he hopes other alternatives can be added back as the project progresses.

In other business, the board:

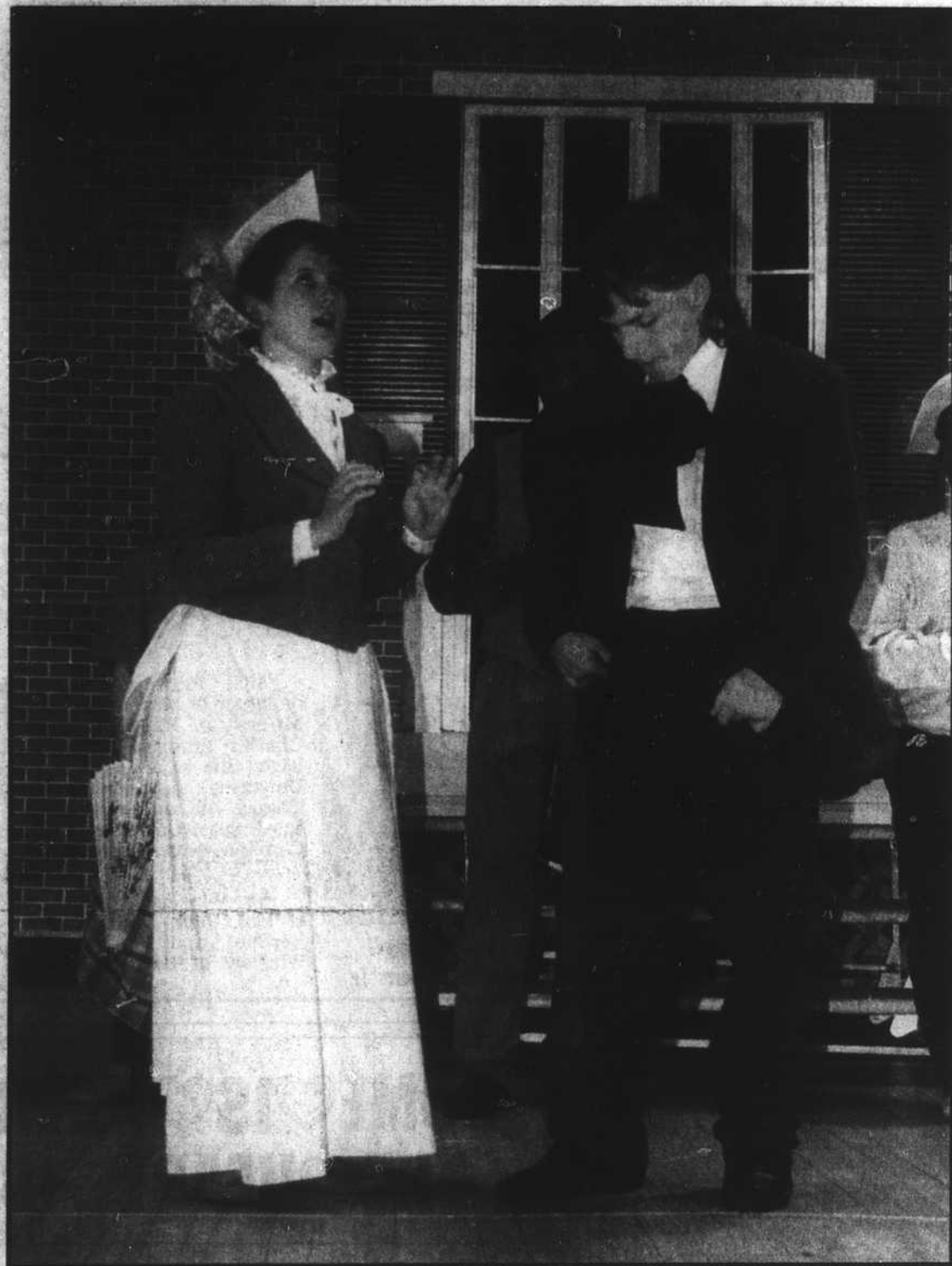
- approved the appointment of Sharon Godfrey Meiggs as interim prevocational education teacher at Perquimans Middle School. Meiggs will teach for Lola Sutton, who is out on disability.

- approved two federal grant applications for handicapped students.

- approved overnight field trips for FHA, the band and the hunter safety teams.

## Class of 2000 to kick off education summit

*Hello, Dolly!*



Ambrose Kemper (John Huffman) gets a earful from Dolly Gallagher Levi (Jamie Hudson) in the Perquimans High School production of the Broadway musical comedy *Hello, Dolly!*. Endearing, although conniving, Dolly weddies her way into the hearts of everyone she meets. The show is scheduled for Friday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. For a review and look at the cast, please see page 7. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## Top speakers dot weekend agenda

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Members of the class of 2000 will kick off the Perquimans County Schools 2000 Education Summit on Friday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m.

The students will cut a commemorative cake and remind participants that educational reform goals should be met by the time they graduate from high school.

Speaking at the Friday evening session will be Dr. Emma E. Kelly Rhodes, Coordinator of Adult Education, Vocational and Technical Education Division, Arkansas Department of Education.

A Kansas native, Rhodes was the third of 16 children. She married, dropped out of school and had her first child at age 15. By the time she turned 24, she was the mother of five children, but was determined to obtain an education. She earned her GED and completed one year of college. Again, her education was interrupted with the birth of two more children. Adding to her responsibilities was her husband's diagnosis of terminal cancer when Rhodes was 28.

Rhodes entered Capitol City Business College and completed secretarial training. She immediately began work as a secretary at Philander Smith College, where she took night courses. Widowed at age 29 with seven children, ages 3 to 15, she continued to work and attend college. In 1967, after five years of night classes, she earned her college degree and accepted a business education teaching position.

Used to the demands of family, job and school, Rhodes continued her education, seeking a masters degree. She earned it in 1976. Along the way she married again.

Not satisfied with her previous success, Rhodes continued working and studying, this time to earn a doctorate. By 1987, Rhodes had realized her dream.

Saturday will begin with a Keeping the Family First breakfast from 9:30-10 a.m. After an outline of the Perquimans 2000 program, Jim Kearn of Spring Branch, Texas will speak on the importance of family relations in education and recognizing the importance of focusing on children.

Kearn is known as an emotional speaker who can lead his listeners easily to tears and laughter, all within a matter of seconds. He is a child advocate who insists that adults remember that children are just that - children - and that things look different at 5 and 25.

Dave Batholomew, a member of the Union City Board of Education wrote about Kearn: "He owned my feelings more overwhelmingly than a Cy Young pitcher would own a bush league rookie. He held me in his rhetorical palm, sifting my emotions through his fingers, leaving my feelings in a sand pile of sadness, laughter, tears and the joy of being a father and working with kids."

"This guy had tears streaming down my face but I didn't cry alone; the thousand or so other folks there wept with me. Thirty seconds later, I was almost out of my chair doing a belly laugh and with me that's a pretty big celebration of joy..."

Kearn's presentation will be followed by an inside picnic lunch.

Dr. John Murphy rounds out the guest speakers. Murphy is superintendent of Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools. He will speak on world class schools.

Murphy is credited with unprecedented educational reform in the Charlotte/Mecklenburg school system. Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander has referred to the Charlotte/Mecklenburg Schools as being on the cutting edge of education reform.

His management style earned him a front page feature profile in *The Wall Street Journal*. He sits on the National Alliance for Restructuring Education. He is co-author of *Transforming America's Schools*, a book released in 1992.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education

## School board joins retreat with summit

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Board of education members will continue focusing on school improvement after the education summit with a board retreat on Monday, May 3.

Board members will gather at the Newbold-White historic complex for their day-long retreat which will culminate in a regularly-scheduled board meeting at the schools' central office at 8 p.m.

Craig Phillips, former state superintendent of public instruction, and Ed Dunlop, associate director of the state school board association, will be on hand to discuss pressing issues with board members. Phillips will give an overview of education history and look ahead to the schools of the future. Dunlop will focus on education roles and expectations in the coming years.

Perquimans Schools Superintendent Dr. Randall L. Henion said the board is still waiting to hear from other education experts who have been invited to meet with the board.

Henion said he is excited about the upcoming summit, which he calls a "celebration of education."

"This is a couple of days where the community can come together and focus on education," Henion said.

The superintendent said the summit will give parents, teachers, administrators and community residents the opportunity to hear about plans for improving education, and share ideas to solve some of the problems facing schools today. He said it will take the cooperation of all those groups to meet the goals the board of education, administration and faculty has set for students.

In addition to offering better futures to the children served by the school system, Henion said a good education is the foundation for economic development and workforce preparedness.

Education Institute research fellow Denis Doyle described Murphy as "superintendent and public sector entrepreneur par excellence" for his initiation of "the most important example in the nation" of public school movement in offering parental choice through highly competitive and uniquely designed public school systems.

Room displays highlighting the national, state and local 2000 education goals will be open from 2-3:30. Interspersed throughout the two-day event will be performances by a variety of school groups.

The summit is free and open to the public.

## Soil and water stewardship week themed "Hands of Healing"

By GINGER O'NEAL  
Administrative Conservationist

Emphasizing that the greatest influence on the environment comes from individuals doing ordinary, thoughtful tasks in their neighborhoods, the Perquimans Conservation Committee is encouraging individuals and local school, camp, church and organization leaders to join the nationwide observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 25-May 2.

The conservation district, which works throughout the year on soil and water conservation measures, is providing literature, educational materials and speakers encouraging individual responsibility and care for natural resources. The local district in one of nearly 3000 conservation districts nationwide that works with the National Association of Conservation Districts to encourage the wise use of natural resources through the annual week-long observance.

Floyd Mathews, chairman of the Perquimans Soil and Water Committee, said he hopes Stewardship Week will challenge actions that heal the area in which they live. "The fact that you may now run less water to brush your teeth is just as important to our environment as a builder installing sediment control basins in a



Soil and Water Stewardship  
April 25 - May 2, 1993

major urban development. Both required individual action...both make a difference," said Mathews.

Materials designed with the 1993 theme, "Hands of Healing," have been distributed

throughout local churches. "Show you Care," booklets were distributed to second grade students at Hertford Grammar School.

## THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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News 3:00  
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