

## Business:

Downtown business gets new name, new face: **Page 8**

## School:

Preparation can be key to successful school year: **Pages 5-7**

## Religion:

Ephesians sets the tone for Christian couples: **Page 3**

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 62, No. 27

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, August 19, 1993

35 Cents

## Board takes no action on differentiated pay request

There will be no role and pay differentiation scale for teacher assistants implemented by the Perquimans County Board of Education for the coming school year.

A study committee formed by schools superintendent Randall L. Henion last month at the board's request recommended Monday night that the board not take action on teacher assistant differentiation.

Mary White and Margie Nixon, teacher assistants who operated computer labs at Perquimans Middle and Perquimans Central schools, respectively, met with the board in executive session in July to air their view that their technical knowledge and experience entitled them to additional pay. White and Nixon were responsible for operating the computer labs at their respective schools, including developing lesson plans for students. All sixth graders were assigned to one semester in the computer lab White operated alone. Nixon was solely responsible for the computer lab serving grades 3-5.

In response to the request, the board authorized Henion to form a committee to study the issue. Administrators, teachers, teacher assistants and media coordinators were chosen by Henion as committee members.

Victor Eure, Perquimans High School media coordinator and chairman of the study committee, presented the committee's recommendations to the board in regular session Monday night.

The committee recommended that the board take no action because the state is studying role and pay differentiation for assistants scheduled to be implemented during the 1995-96 school year. Eure said that the committee hesitated to make specific recommendations because local decisions might run contrary to those later set down by the state.

Eure said Tuesday that while the state has scheduled implementation of the differentiated role plan in 1995-96, information provided to the committee suggested that job descriptions and salary scales corresponding to the plan would be available prior to that time. He said the committee suggested that the board review the state documents when they are available to make a differentiated role decision.

The committee did make three recommendations: 1. Years of experience should be a priority in determining salary increases; 2. Computer lab assistants should be under the supervision of media coordinators; and 3. The finance officer should give information on salaries and benefits to teachers and teacher assistants.

Eure said the committee was given the new teacher assistant salary scale implemented by the board last month. That plan increased assistants' pay based on years of service. Eure said every assistant received at least a 2 percent pay increase under the plan and most received a higher percentage. He said the committee also considered that the local supplement paid to teacher assistants will increase by \$50 for the coming school year.

Board member Wallace Nelson suggested that Henion, Eure and the principals meet to discuss the situation and come up with specific recommendations at the school level. Nelson said planning now might put the system in line to be a pilot program when the state begins the differentiated role plan for teacher assistants.

"They (teacher assistants) need this," Nelson said.

## Cafeteria characters



The new *Jungle Book* mural on the Hertford Grammar School cafeteria wall brightens up the serving line and will no doubt be a lunchtime conversation piece for the school's pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first and second graders. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## Kornegay resigns

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

J. Morris Kornegay, formerly a co-principal at Perquimans Middle School, resigned Monday.

Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion said Monday night that Kornegay resigned from the Perquimans County Schools effective Dec. 31 for personal and family reasons.

Kornegay has been assigned to the central administrative office as a special assistant in the interim. Henion said Kornegay will be performing student test profiling and other duties. He will be paid from state funds.

The school board voted to reorganize the administration at the middle school in special session on Aug. 9. For three years, co-principals Kornegay and Henry Felton had been assigned to the school. Citing administrative inefficiency, a lack of clear lines of authority and inefficient use of local funds as reasons to make a change, the board voted to assign a principal and an assistant principal to the school, rather than two principals. The move was recommended in an audit performed by the state auditor's office last year, and is projected to save over \$10,000 in local funds.

Henion announced on Aug. 10 that co-principal Henry Felton had been assigned to the principal's post at the school. Karen Luszc, formerly assistant principal at Perquimans High School, was transferred to the assistant principal's position at the middle school. Kornegay was temporarily unassigned as of Aug. 10.

In addition to serving as co-principal at the middle school, Kornegay served as principal at both Hertford Grammar and Central schools and in the central office during his 16-year tenure with the school system.

## Schools faculty, staff head back to class

Students can expect a few changes

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The bells didn't ring, but 10-month Perquimans County Schools employees flocked back to school Monday for their first day of the 1993-94 school year.

Staff members set to work arranging furniture, giving rooms a good cleaning and putting up "welcome back" bulletin boards in classrooms.

There will be a few changes in some schools this year. Both Hertford Grammar and Perquimans Central schools will have a full-time guidance counselor on staff. Prior to this year, the schools have shared a counselor. Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion said Monday that the funds to allow the schools to assign a full-time counselor to each school came from the state's small schools funds.

Spanish will be taught at



Workmen are swarming at Perquimans Middle School as subcontractors are pushing to finish classrooms, hallways and administrative areas before the first day of school next Thursday. While officials do not expect the gymnasium, teaching theater

and exterior work to be complete by the time the students return, a delayed opening is not expected. The entire project should be finished by Oct. 1. (Photo by Susan Harris)

all four county schools this year. The board hired two Spanish teachers with small schools money to serve at Perquimans Central and Perquimans Middle schools.

The N.C. Department of Transportation has installed flashing lights on both sides of Perquimans Central School to help slow traffic passing the school. The signs warn motorists of the school zone, and call for a 25-mile-per-hour speed limit during the school's opening and closing hours.

Central School will also have a new wastewater treatment system shortly after school begins. The project was held up for months by the state before finally being approved earlier this summer. Workmen are presently on the site.

Subcontractors are working overtime on the \$2.6 million Perquimans Middle School renovation project. HBA Architects, the firm overseeing the project on behalf of the school system, anticipates that classrooms,

administrative areas and hallways will be operational when school opens Aug. 26. The gymnasium, teaching theater, foyer and exterior should be complete 30 days after that time.

In the meantime, teachers and maintenance employees are working hard to get furniture and equipment moved back into place as each section of the building is complete. As of Monday, there were no telephones at the school.

Perquimans High School will

feature expanded home economics and computer labs this year.

Schedules for high school students were mailed last week, according to principal William E. Byrum. Class assignments for students in the three other schools are being finalized, the principals said. Teachers will call students as soon as assignments are finalized.

Bus schedules are also being finalized. Henion said bus drivers should be calling students soon with schedules.

## Education group makes school improvement suggestions

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

The Concerned Citizens for Perquimans Education presented its first formal suggestions to the board of education and administrators Monday night during the board's regular session.

"We challenge you to take our suggestions and concerns seriously, and to act on them," said Marjorie Rayburn, spokesperson for the group, after reviewing with the board a two-page report submitted to its members by the Concerned Citizens.

Rayburn outlined committee suggestions to improve communication between board members, faculty and staff, parents and the community. In addition, the group suggested ways to improve the evaluation and performance of instructional staff.

To improve communication, the committee offered seven suggestions:

Develop an open schools

policy designed to encourage visitation by parents and citizens.

Send surveys to teachers, principals, other staff and students to assess needs, concerns, morale and suggestions.

Hold board of education meetings in the schools. Explain board procedures so those who attend meetings can better understand board discussion and action.

Use peer grievance committees as a step in the grievance process to arbitrate and suggest solutions to personnel conflicts.

Activate the concept of school advisory committees for each school to address needs and suggest school-based solutions to issues.

Initiate public relations efforts to help citizens get to know school and administrative personnel, board members and have access to them.

Hold open houses at each school for citizens and parents to get to know the school and personnel. This should include an open house prior to the start of

school.

To improve the evaluation and performance of instructional staff, six components were outlined:

Perform regular, periodic, systematic evaluations of all instructional staff and principals, including teachers, coaches and teacher assistants.

Use an outside evaluator to try to get more objective evaluations.

Present mid-year progress reports, especially to new teachers, to identify those teachers who may need additional help to meet performance standards.

Strengthen the mentorship program.

Conduct student surveys of teachers, to be used by teachers only, to assess student satisfaction with teaching style, techniques and material presented.

Ensure that comments and criticisms regarding teachers are placed in the teachers' personnel files.

"Certainly all the suggestions will be considered and we appreciate that they (Concerned Citizens for Perquimans Education) are citizens that are concerned about the education of the children in Perquimans County," board chairman Wayne Howell said Tuesday morning.

Howell said some of the recommendations made by the committee are already being implemented and/or studied. Some are included in the Perquimans 2000 education goals. Howell added, "The chairman said all the recommendations will be reviewed by the board."

Howell said he was glad to see the group trying to work with the board to enhance the school system.

"I'm glad to see parents involved," Howell said.

The board also met with local N.C.A.E. president Virgie Whitehurst and N.C.A.E. UniServ representative Lueta Sellers in executive session Monday night.

After reconvening in open session, Whitehurst read a statement about a recent survey conducted by N.C.A.E. regarding

principal practices in the school system, and asked the board and administration to form a school improvement partnership with N.C.A.E.

Howell said the board agreed to work with N.C.A.E.

