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KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA 280

Re-Districting Possibilities Discussed

Only Six Speak At School Board Hearing

By GARY STEWART
Editor of the Herald

Only six people addressed the Kings Mountain Board of Education at its public hearing Monday to receive input on the possibility of re-drawing elementary school attendance lines to achieve racial balance.

The system is considering several options be-



JIM JENNINGS

cause the minority ratio at East Elementary is too high, and the ratio at Bethware School is too low.

The board has discussed seven possibilities in recent months, and one citizen, Billy Houze of Grover, suggested a possible eighth scenario at Monday's hearing.

Houze suggested moving students in the Patterson Grove and Gold Run sections from Bethware to North School; students in the north and east sections of the North attendance zone to East; and students from the Pine Manor area from East to West.

"By doing this, you would take be taking some students from Bethware, which would automatically raise the racial imbalance there," Houze said. "Busing students from Northwoods (which was mentioned in one of the board's initial seven scenarios) to Bethware

would be too long a time for anyone to be on the road."

Houze suggested that "if and when this is done, there is some concern that you make sure teachers are shifted in the same type of balance."

Four other parents spoke. Although none of them offered a scenario, they all urged the board to do what's best for the children.

Jim Jennings, who lives in the North district, urged the board to do some type of re-districting to bring about a more even racial balance before the beginning of the 1989-90 school term, and to continue to balance schools racially during the next several years.

"I'm first and foremost for maintaining the integrity of the Kings Mountain School System, and to do that

we must rectify the racial imbalance in our schools," he said. "If we don't do this and take it upon ourselves to do what's just and equitable for all citizens of our community, we hold ourselves open to criticism. This kind of criticism could result in us losing our power to run our own schools and chart the course for our children."

Jenning said he felt some of the early options discussed by the board would alleviate only the racial imbalance at East School at the expense of North, and would still leave West and Bethware with low ratios. "These plans are unacceptable to me," he said.

He said some of the scenarios would require a

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KMHS Indoor Pool Dedication Sunday

Kings Mountain District Schools and Kings Mountain Indoor Pool Foundation will dedicate the Kathryn M. Neisler Natatorium at 3 p.m. Sunday at Kings Mountain Senior High School.

The public is invited. Free swim sessions for all ages will follow the brief ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Lifeguards will be on duty.

"We've been looking forward to Sunday for a long time," said Dr. Scott Mayse who was chairman of the project which began as far back as 1982 when the Kings Mountain High School Class of '82 gave \$1,000 to the school in hopes that it would one day boast an indoor pool. The late Kathryn Neisler, whose husband Paul Neisler helped found Neisler Mills, was an avid supporter of Kings Mountain High School sports and the 11,000 square foot facility was named in honor of Mrs. Neisler.

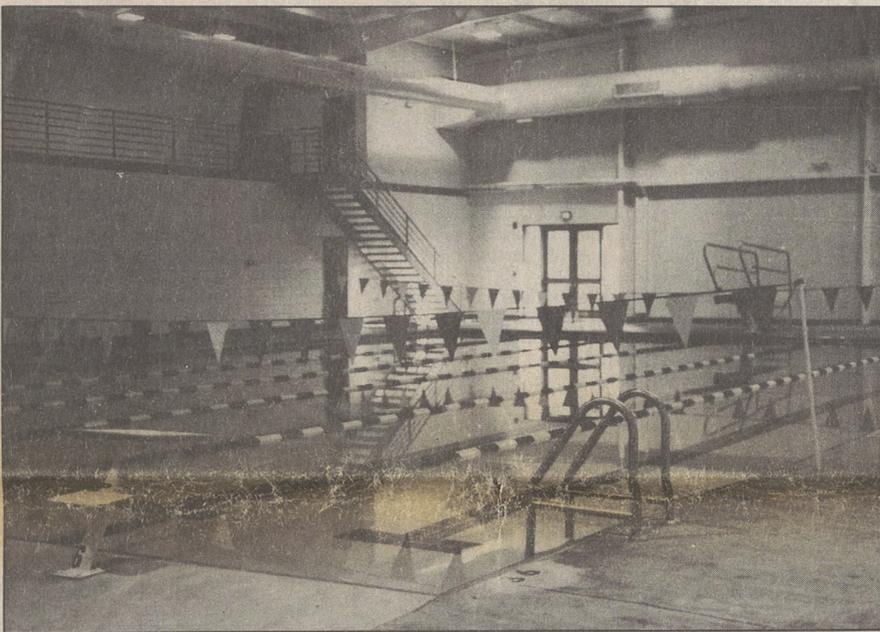
Fundraising began in earnest in 1984 by the Kings Mountain Indoor Pool Foundation headed by Dr. Scott Mayse. The response of the community was overwhelming. More than \$830,000 was raised and some \$880,000 is being obtained through memberships and a second fund drive.

Memorial plaques will be placed throughout the spacious facility to honor donors. A big sign on the front of the building labels the facility as Kathryn M. Neisler Natatorium.

Lee Neisler, president of the Class of 1982 and grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Neisler Sr., will assist Dr. Mayse in giving a history of the project and Henry Neisler will present the pool from citizens of Kings Mountain to the Kings Mountain District Schools. Bill McDaniel, chairman of the KM Board of Education, KMSHS Principal Jackie Lavender and Dr. Bob McRae, Superintendent of Schools, will accept. Other dedicatory remarks will also be made by Jay Hendricks, vice president of the KMSHS Student Council, Dr. McRae and Mayor Kyle Smith. Dr. Mayse, Bill McDaniel and Henry and Charles Neisler, twin sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Neisler Sr., will cut the ribbon formally opening the facility to the public.

Dr. Mayse said that the new facility is almost 100 percent ready for Sunday's opening, which will include a grand tour of the facility. A telephone was installed this week and the number is 739-0707 for benefit of those wanting to schedule swim lessons.

"It's hard to believe it's come about but we are grateful to Kings Mountain area people for making it possible, an effort of the whole community," said Mayse.



POOL TO BE DEDICATED - The new indoor swimming pool at Kings Mountain High School will be dedicated Sunday at 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and tour the building.

Would Help Fund Walking Track

Department Seeks \$47,000 Federal Grant

Kings Mountain Parks & Recreation Department is seeking a \$47,000 federal grant to expand Early Memorial Park.

David Hancock, City Recreation Director, presented the proposal to the City Council at Tuesday night's meeting and the Council authorized City Manager George Wood to file the grant papers by March 3 with the Land and Water Conservation Department through the Department of Interior, National Parks Service.

A half-mile, lighted walking track, outdoor amphitheater, two picnic shelters with rest rooms and "band shell" are included in the \$94,000 project cost which would include \$22,000 from the city and \$25,000 worth of work by the city, Hancock said.

If the grant is approved, construction would begin in August and be finished by September 1990.

Hancock said the city wanted to add two ball fields at the 10 acre site on Cleveland Avenue behind the Fire Museum on property bounded by Branch and Chestnut Streets in a recreation complex centered by the Kings Mountain Community Center. After further discussion with Duke Power officials the feasibility of modifying Duke's right-of-way and complying with LWCF guidelines was remote. "In light of these facts and knowing how important the walking track component of the grant is for citizens I have elected to drop the ballfields and develop more of a passive area to include a band shell/outdoor theater area, playground

area, walking track, two picnic shelters and landscaping/arborium," Hancock told the City Council.

The Kings Mountain Parks & Recreation Commission at Monday night's meeting reviewed the plans and gave approval to the project.

The walking track project, which has been talked by senior citizens since 1974, would be a compacted granite dust track and well lighted. A band shell would allow the city to schedule not only its July 4th activities there but Mountaineer Day activities in one central area of the city and would also allow a place for concerts in the park, band concerts, and theater activities with seats to be constructed in a hillside amphitheater.

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KM's First Paid Fire Chief

Gene Tignor Retiring

By GARY STEWART
Editor of the Herald

When Kings Mountain Fire Chief Gene Tignor retires April 28, he will end a 16-year tenure as the city's first full-time chief and a 36-year association with the fire department.

He'll leave behind a long list of accomplishments but will take with him a lot of precious memories of people he has worked for and with, and friends he has made since his childhood in Kings Mountain.

Quitting a job is a new experience for Tignor, who laughs and says "quitting is a whole lot harder than finding a job." Tignor has never filled out an application for a job and when he wrote a brief letter of resignation to the City Council recently, it was the first time he'd ever quit a job.

His first work experience came as a lad, when the late C.F. Stowe hired him for 10 cents an hour to work on his farm. After graduating from Kings Mountain High School in the spring of 1941, he worked for W.W. Parrish at the Pauline Mill until he went into the service.

"He just saw me one day and said, 'come up to the mill Monday, I'm putting you to work,'" Tignor recalled. "He did a lot of young boys like that. I guess Mr. Parrish and C.F. Stowe and Glenn Grigg were the best friends I ever had."



"Quitting is a whole lot harder than finding a job."

— Gene Tignor

Tignor earned five battle stars in WW II, and served under General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who would later become President of the United States, and General George Patton.

Tignor participated in the D Day Invasion of Normandy with Ike's troops and in the Battle of Bastogne with Patton, who Tignor says was the "best general the United States ever had." Tignor said actor George C. Scott did a great job of playing Patton in the movie several years ago.

"He was 'blood and guts', that's for sure," Tignor said. "The men respected him, and he meant business. He didn't mind losing lives, I guess, but he got the job done."

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ICY DAY IN KM - What a difference a few days make. Last weekend, icicles, like these on T.C. "Red" McKee's home in east Kings Mountain, hung from the rooftops while snow carpeted the lawns. Just a few days earlier than this, the temperature was in the 80's and a few days later, in the high 60's. But don't plan any cookouts. The weatherman is calling for a chance of snow again this weekend.

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