

Schools

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The next two schools in line for construction and improvements after that are Grover and East. Therefore, McRae said, it will be necessary for the board to act on the East decision sometime during the 1989-90 school year in order to have its elementary schools construction plans in motion.

In the past several months, the board has considered several scenarios for re-drawing elementary attendance lines, and one of those scenarios involves closing East and re-assigning its students to other schools. At a recent public hearing, one parent spoke in favor of that idea while East Principal Cozelle Vance asked the board not to close East.

None of the board members have publicly stated their opinions but all have stated that they want to do what's best for all students in the district.

Supt. McRae released 10-year enrollment figures at East at

Monday night's meeting and they show a drastic decrease over the past five years. The enrollment at East increased from 359 in 1979-80 to 395 in 1982-83, but since then it has decreased to its present enrollment of 263 students. McRae said there are only 116 students in grades kindergarten through two, and 147 students in grades three through five. He said pre-kindergarten registration is scheduled for Friday but he doesn't expect to see an increase in East's enrollment.

Board chairman Bill McDaniel suggested that the enrollment be monitored next year. "If it continues to drop as it has in the last three to five years, it would be impossible to keep it open," he said.

Asst. Supt. Larry Allen pointed out that several homes are being constructed in the Linwood area of Gaston County "and if the city annexes that property, it would be in our school system and could mean an increase in enrollment at East."

City Manager George Wood said today that one sub-division (Mountain Manor) which is being built off Linwood Road has already been annexed into the city, and the owner of another planned sub-divi-

sion on Highway 161 north of Radio Station WKMT is negotiating with the city about annexation.

McRae said the enrollment could be monitored next year "but we're shooting for an August 1990 completion on the junior and senior high and, technically, we'll be ready to start talking with the architect about the elementary schools. We're not in a crunch to make a decision before next fall...but it's pretty important to make a decision during the next school year."

McRae said the school board could begin working on the attendance lines question now and continue it in-depth at its annual retreat this summer.

Board member Billy King suggested trying to "narrow it down to the top two or three choices. We need to make our plans so the people can know where their children are going to be going to school," he said.

In other action Monday night, the board:

- *Was told by McRae that van-

dals spray painted walls at the junior high over the weekend. McRae praised school maintenance employees Robert Scism and Everett Grigg and junior high teachers Tommy Wease and David Heffner for their work all weekend to clean the area and re-paint it. "We hate to see this type thing happen, but the work our people did was just another example of the fine, dedicated employees that we have. We plan to work very closely with the police department to find out who was responsible for this."

- *Approved a wrestling camp for June 12-16 at the junior high. Fee is \$25.
- *Approved a tennis camp June 14-18 at the high school. Fee is \$25.
- *Heard a report from Jim Owens, computer specialist for the school system, on the K-5 computer curriculum. Owens reviewed state-mandated guidelines for computer curriculum in the elementary schools and urged the board to provide each classroom with two computers and a printer. He said state

guidelines call for each student spending 30 minutes per week on computers but it's not being done because of a lack of equipment. "In the 21 years that I've been teaching, I've found nothing to motivate students like computers," he said.

*Approved policy JGCB (inoculations) and heard first readings of policies IKA and IKA-B (grading periods) and IKA-BR (administrative rules). McRae said part of those policies deal with notifying parents if their children are in dan-

ger of failing after the third nine-weeks grading period. "If a student is in danger of failing, I would prefer that the parents be notified at mid-year, but we've never had this in writing before and this requires them to be notified no later than the end of the third nine-weeks grading period," McRae said.

*Approved several student transfers and personnel requests.

*Set the regular June board meeting for June 19 at 7:30 p.m.

Tornado

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"I've never seen anything like it," said Hawkins. "Previously, the worst thing I'd ever been to where you were hoping for the best but had a bad feeling inside was when Tom Brooks and I were on a search and rescue mission at Rome Mountain, where a plane had crashed on the top of the mountain. We spent most of the morning searching, found the plane, and directed the ground team to it. It had three deaths."

Hawkins said the biggest area of damage was about two miles south of Highway 18's intersection with Highway 27, near Vale.

"The damage continued in a northeasterly direction on up 18 and veered out Highway 10 like you're going to Hickory," he said. "There were just acres of trees that looked like the bark had just completely peeled off. Some houses had partial roofs, some no roofs, and some places you could see foundations but no sign of a house anywhere."

Most rescue squad members from Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, and other counties, worked all night and most of the weekend assisting residents by administering first aid, transporting them to hospitals and emergency shelters, and helping with traffic control. Electrical crews from Duke Power and Rutherford Electric worked all weekend restoring power to the area.

"It was just amazing the amount of damage that the wind caused," Hawkins said.

Hawkins returned to the area Sunday in his own private plane, taking State Senator Ollie Harris to check on damages.

Many areas of the county sustained damage again Saturday during heavy windstorms, but no injuries were reported.

The Green Meadows section of Kings Mountain had hundreds of huge, hardwood trees uprooted but, luckily, none fell on homes.

David Glover and members of his family ran to a nearby field and lay in a ditch until the storm passed.

"There were 12 trees down in my yard and 15 in my neighbor's, but fortunately, none fell on the houses," he said. "I think the only thing hit by a falling tree was a satellite dish."

Power was out for about six hours.

Freeze

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12:30 a.m. and stayed at it the rest of the night.

"We were able to save our strawberries and blackberries," she said. "Our only damage was to bunch grapes because we didn't frost protect them. The seedless grapes

made it, peaches survived, and we covered our tomato crop and frost protected the cantaloupes."

Mrs. Lineberger said the peach crop was damaged by about 25 percent during earlier frosts, and they will have only a five percent nectarine crop.

"I talked to some blueberry and blackberry growers who did not

frost protect, and they had lots of damage," Mrs. Lineberger said.

Gibson said most small home gardeners who did not cover their plants will have to re-plant.

"I've been in Cleveland County for 10 years and this is the latest frost I can remember," he said.

The National Weather Service is calling for continued cool weather

the remainder of the week, with lows in the high 40s and highs in the high 60s to low 70s. But frost is not in the forecast.

BREAKFAST

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church will have its monthly breakfast Saturday from 6-10 a.m. at the church. From 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., members of the church will sell hot dogs and hamburgers.

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