

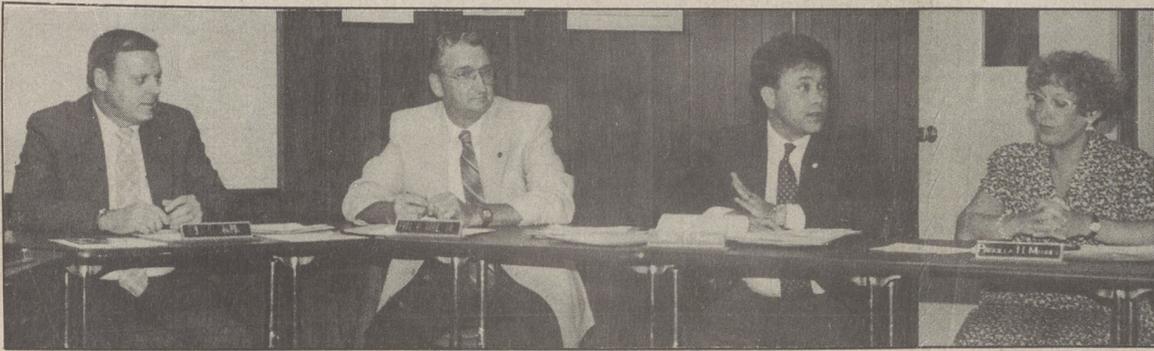
# Kings Mountain Herald

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KINGS MOUNTAIN

## East School To Remain Open



BOARD MAKES DECISION-Four members of the Kings Mountain Board of Education, above, are pictured at Monday's meeting when they voted unanimously to leave East School open.

From left, Doyle Campbell, Paul Hord Jr., Billy King and Priscilla Mauney. Chairman Bill McDaniel, not pictured, called for the vote on the issue.

### Strong Citizen Support Convinced School Board

The Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night voted unanimously not to close East School but left open the future possibility of re-drawing attendance lines to achieve racial balance.

Many board members who had been leaning toward closing the school because of its declining enrollment and racial imbalance said they were convinced to leave the school open because of the tremendous support shown by residents of the community at a public hearing last Monday night at the school. Board members called on members of the community to continue to show that kind of support for East and the entire school district.

Paul Hord Jr. made the motion to keep the school open and said that, if necessary, the board could address the racial imbalance in the future. Doyle Campbell seconded.

"When we first began looking at this issue, I was concerned with the racial imbalance there and the board was concerned that maybe all the children at East weren't getting the quality education children at other schools were," Campbell said. "I am still not convinced that leaving East open is in the best interest of the children, however, I do think another part of an elected of-

cial's responsibility is to listen to the voice of the constituents and the voices have spoken loud and clear in their desire to see East remain open. I hope that with the new leadership at the school that we can challenge the parents and the neighborhood and changes can occur to make the educational experiences of the children stronger there."

Board member Billy King said he felt the board had a responsibility "to continue to take a close look at East and if enrollment decreases significantly, we need to address it at that time."

Board member Priscilla Mauney said she favored keeping the school open because of the concern shown by the East community, and added that there may be "other alternatives toward utilizing the structure in the future."

Chairman Bill McDaniel said his "gut" feeling still was to close East School, but that he was willing to listen to the people and abide by their wishes. However, he challenged the public to support the school and system on an on-going basis.

"I'm going off the school board

See East, 10-A

## Schools To Open Monday

School bells ring Monday morning for 3,900 students and 500 employees in the Kings Mountain District School System.

"We're ready," says Dr. Larry Allen, Assistant Superintendent, who was inspecting the school sites this week where construction is underway on new improvements and repairs, including the completion of a major asbestos removal project at North School and major construction at the Junior High School, the home of the proposed Middle School in 1990-91.

In addition to repairs and new school construction, the student population can expect new programs in drug education, water safety, and for at-risk students in addition to an Open Court reading program expanded to include all Kindergarten classes system-wide plus additional foreign language programs and two new positions funded in the Basic Education Plan by the General Assembly, a drop-out counselor and home-school coordinator.

Florrie Hamrick has been hired

as the home-school coordinator for grades K-12 to work primarily with students with attendance problems and serve as a contact with their parents.

Beulah Carroll has been hired as the drop-out prevention counselor for grades 6-12. The counselor's main focus would be students in grades six through nine and monitoring the progress of those who may be potential dropouts. She would concentrate her program at the middle school level and will

work out of the Junior High building.

This year, all fifth graders will receive instruction in DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, a joint effort by the schools and the Kings Mountain Police Department. The drug education classes will be taught by Ptl. Alan Hardin who will be visiting each of the elementary schools to teach the class.

With the opening of the new

See Schools, 10-A

### KM Schools To Make Effort To Curb Dropouts

Kings Mountain Schools will make a special effort to address the growing problem of drop-outs this year, Supt. Bob McRae told the board of education at its monthly meeting Monday night at the superintendent's office.

Beulah Carroll, former In School Suspension teacher at Central School, has been appointed dropout prevention counselor at Kings Mountain Junior High in an effort to curb the dropout rate at that school. McRae said youngsters in the eighth and ninth grades are nearing the age of 16 and that's when they can legally quit school.

Ms. Carroll will have almost daily contact with students who have been identified as potential dropouts and will work with teachers and parents to try to keep them in school, McRae said.

The system has also hired Florrie Hamrick as the K-12 Home-School Coordinator and she will work with children in all grades who are having difficulties and may be potential dropouts.

McRae said the system is also implementing a FOCUS program in the seventh grade. That program identifies students with difficulties and places them in a "school within a school" atmosphere. Teachers will rotate through the program and an assistant will be with the students throughout the day.

"With the increasing dropout rate, this could be the most difficult problem we have to face," McRae told the board.

McRae also noted some other goals the school's leadership team prioritized during a recent retreat, and added some personal goals he'd like to accomplish during the 1989-90 school year.

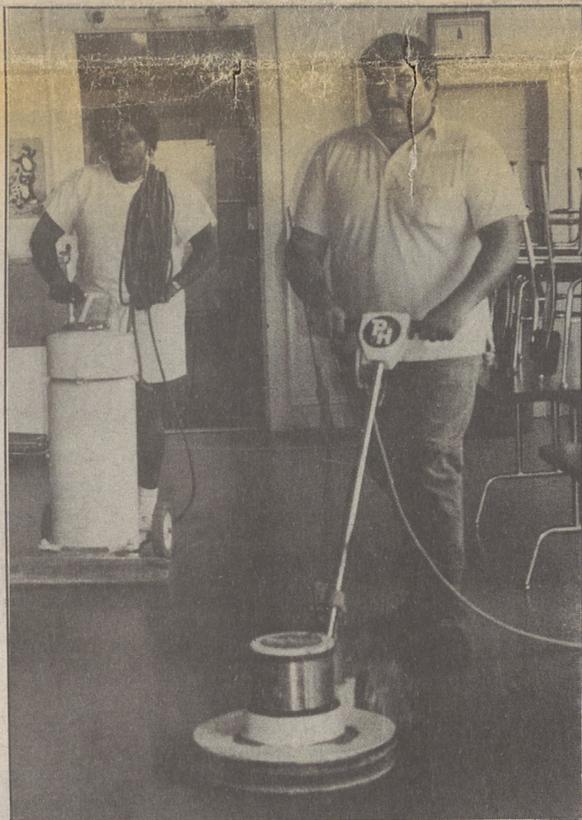
In addition to curbing the dropout rate, the leadership team wants to increase the achievement of students, and McRae said that means improving test scores.

"More and more in North Carolina we're going to be judged in test scores," he said. "In fact, there is a Senate bill that gives schools more flexibility in administering their own programs and funds, but also calls for more accountability and that relates to test scores."

McRae said the administration wants to continue its efforts to reorganize into a 6-8 middle school and 9-12 high school system during the year and to continue to integrate the current curriculum with new curriculum made possible through the Basic Education Plan. He said elementary Spanish programs will be expanded, as well as Spanish in the middle schools and physical education in elementary schools. He said the swimming program will be implemented in the fourth grade and high school.

As for his personal goals, McRae said he will continue to work with the individual schools to provide leadership to help improve student achievements, review the

See Drugs, 9-A



CLEANING FLOORS-Sherry Wilson and Jeff Patrick complete clean-up duties in the cafeteria at East School in preparation for the opening of school Monday morning.

### City Employee Injured While Fixing Water Line

City employee Emmett Moss, injured early Saturday morning when a car struck a construction barricade on West Mountain Street where city crews were fixing a water line break, is improving after surgery in Cleveland Memorial Hospital.

Moss is expected to be hospitalized about six weeks, according to his wife, Hilda.

"Emmett is a big man and that probably saved his life," said Mrs. Moss, who said her husband suffered a broken leg, a broken arm, a dislocated arm, a broken thumb and serious abrasions and bruises.

"Emmett doesn't like to be confined and right now we're having to feed him but he is resting comfortably. Things could be lot worse," she said.

Moss, supervisor of grounds and maintenance for the City of Kings Mountain for six years, Ricky Putnam, and Kenny Downey were called out early Saturday morning to repair a broken water line. According to police reports, city crews had put up one barricade and

Moss was moving a second barricade to allow a city dump truck to enter the closed street when a car being driven by Kenny Potter, 19, of 308 W. Mountain St., hit the barricade blocking the intersection of Mountain and Juniper Streets, then the pedestrian, pushing Moss against the wheels of the dump truck, according to Ptl. Harry Kyle who investigated for Kings Mountain Police. Kyle said that Potter and a friend were returning from a party at the time of the accident at 4:50 a.m. Kyle charged Potter with DWI and exceeding safe speed.

Public Works Supt. Karl Moss said that city workers went to a residence on West Mountain and summoned ambulance and police. Karl Moss said Emmett Moss's crew had no radio in their city equipment now due to the fact that the city is in process of switching over to the new 911 emergency number.

Emmett Moss is a patient in Room 351 at Cleveland Memorial Hospital in Shelby.

### Nationwide Bonding Company Gives KM The Highest Rating

A nationwide bond rating agency Tuesday gave the City of Kings Mountain an "A" rating, the highest that is given to a city this size, indicating the city's financial planning and procedures are solid.

"We're very, very pleased," said City Manager George Wood who said that the New York-based Moody's Investment Services rate the fiscal health of municipalities nationwide. Wood termed Moody's telephone call to him late Tuesday as "good news for the city."

Moody's rated the city "A" 20 years ago, the last time the city sold general obligation bonds for the construction of Moss Lake.

Kings Mountain will open bids in Raleigh Tuesday for nearly \$7 million in general obligation bonds approved by voters in February for improvements to the utility system.

"The city will actually know what the cost will be Tuesday but we won't close until Sept. 19," said Wood.

Moody's looked at the local economy, financial condition of the

city, growth, and management of the city in determining the rating, said Wood.

Standard and Poors, another New York-based company, also conducted a first-time bond rating of the city and gave Kings Mountain a BBB+ which is one step below a A-. "The reason for the lower-but good- rating from Standard and Poors was the fact that the city's ten big customers in utilities represent 60% of the amount of revenue and the majority of them come from the textile industry. The investment firm was concerned that, although industry is diversified in Kings Mountain, the top 10 water and sewage customers pay 60% of our usage and they are largely textile concerns. A downturn in the textiles would affect the economy," said Wood.

"These ratings tell everyone that we are credit worthy. They rate the bonds for potential investments and our ability to repay them," said Wood. "Standard's rating is a little lower than we hoped"

#### Investigation Continuing

### City Employee Resigns

A veteran city employee resigned Monday in the middle of an investigation into alleged missing utility payments.

City Manager George Wood confirmed that a second member of the utility department staff has left the city under fire.

Wood said findings of auditors and the SBI will be turned over to the District Attorney soon, and if warranted, prosecution will proceed.

"Rumors are going around town that the city may not prosecute further in this case but those rumors are not true. Public funds are involved and the city is making every effort to complete the investigation and re-

port results of the investigation to the DA's office," said Wood.

Diane L. Dellinger, 41, of 606 Bridges Drive, a 10-year employee of the city utility department, waived preliminary hearing Aug. 3 in Cleveland County District Court and was bound over to Superior Court on two counts of embezzling utility payments totaling \$6100. Dellinger had been suspended without pay pending results of the investigation which began last month. Dellinger's job was terminated by Wood this week.

The city has confirmed irregularities in collection records in the utility department dating prior to August 1988 when the city computerized billings.

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