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Reassignment Draft To Be Presented

Dr. Robert Sowell of YSAC, Inc. will review the first draft of the elementary student assignment plan with the Kings Mountain Board of Education at its monthly meeting Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Kings Mountain Middle School.

A map of the first draft will be on display for parents beginning at 7 p.m.

Supt. Bob McRae said no action will be taken Thursday night but members of the public are invited to attend the meeting and look at the map.

"The draft may be very much like the final plan, but right now it is the first draft the board can look

at and see if anything needs to be done to change it." McRae said he anticipates a lot of discussion and questions from board members about what's been done "but there certainly won't be any final decisions made. We need to move the process along and complete it within the next three months but that will come with a lot of work during that time and not on Thursday night."

McRae said the first draft affects every elementary school in the district.

"There are some changes in terms of what is currently the case, but in a sense of the entire system

they are not major," he said. "There are some areas that are impacted significantly in the first draft. The degree of significance anybody places on it relates very closely to whether or not they live in those areas."

Grover is probably the least affected, McRae said. "Other than that, I'd hesitate to say between any of them because there are some changes to all of them. I would say the changes are fairly well balanced across the system."

McRae said the main thing the board of education needs to do at this time is "make sure they don't overlook a special need and make a

change that is not in the interest of the safety and well being of the children."

The board is reassigning some students because of racial imbalance in elementary schools, particularly at East and Bethware. East has 64 percent minority students while Bethware has only 14 percent. The average for the other three schools (Grover, North and West) fall closer to the system average of 26 percent.

The board will discuss several other important matters Thursday night, and will take action on some of them.

By state law, the board is re-

quired to reorganize each December and a chairman and vice chairman will be elected. Doyle Campbell has served as chairman for the past year and Billy King as vice chairman. It is expected that King will be elected chairman for 1991 and Priscilla Mauney will be named vice chairman.

The board will also discuss bids for construction projects at Bethware School. A 14-classroom addition is being planned.

Dr. McRae said bids will be received Thursday at 3 p.m. The system will receive bids on the general contract, plumbing, electrical and mechanical.

"We hope to have enough bids in each category," he said. "We have had a lot of interest in terms of people picking up bid forms and plans from the architect."

The board will also consider a resolution honoring Senator Ollie Harris; a slight change in the 1990-91 school calendar affecting East, Grover, the high school and middle school; consider a resolution of support for the proposed Communities in Schools project--a county wide effort aimed at identifying at risk children and providing more compete services to them; and act on several personnel items.

Stocking Fund Still Lagging

The Kings Mountain Empty Stocking Fund continues to inch upward but committee workers fear the final amount raised will fall far short of last year's mark of \$3,900.

Donations of \$300 were received last week, bringing the current total to \$950. The drive must be closed out next week so the committee can purchase and deliver items before Christmas.

Donations to the Empty Stocking Fund go to purchase toys, food and other necessities for needy children and their families in the Kings Mountain area.

Last year, the fund assisted 24 local families and the committee was hoping to assist 40 families this year.

Contributions during the past week:

Timms Furniture Company, \$100.
 Christian Adult Class, Central United Methodist Church, \$150.

James and Betty Potter, \$25.

Daughters of Wesley Class, Central United Methodist Church, \$25.

Received this week: \$300.00
 Previous total: \$650.00

Total to date: \$950.00

Bells To Ring For Food Bank

The Kings Mountain Ministerial Association enters its second week of the bell ringing campaign to raise money for the Helping Hand Fund's Food Bank and Crisis Ministry.

Ministers will ring bells Thursday and Friday in front of Harris Teeter, Revco and Winn Dixie from 2-8 p.m. Last week, almost \$800 was donated. The goal is \$2,000.

Ministers on duty this week include:

December 13, at Harris Teeter: Mitchell Pruitt (2-4 p.m.), Bob Collins, 4-6 p.m.; at Winn-Dixie, Harwood Smith (2-4 p.m.), Dewey Smith, (6-8 p.m.); at Revco, George Simmons (2-4 p.m.), Steve Lee (4-6 p.m.).

December 14, at Harris Teeter, John Futterer (2-4 p.m.); Donald Denton (4-6 p.m.) and Nancy Brown (6-8 p.m.); at Winn Dixie, Bill Barron (2-4 p.m.), Bob Little (4-6 p.m.), and Allan Sinclair (6-8 p.m.); and at Revco, Gene Land (2-4 p.m.), Clinton Feemster (4-6 p.m.), and Ron Caulder (6-8 p.m.).

Persons may also mail their donations to the KMMA Helping Hand Fund, P.O. Box 1335, Kings Mountain, 28086.

Site Is Cleared For Water Tank

Clearing of the site for a new five million gallon water tank to be constructed at the Public Works Department on N. Piedmont Ave. has begun and the project should be completed by next summer, according to Tom Howard, city engineer.

This tank and a one million gallon gravity thickener tank at the T.J. Ellison Water Plant are part of a utilities improvement project which got the go ahead when Kings Mountain residents approved a recent \$9.2 million bond referendum. Of this amount, ap-

proximately \$2.7 million has been targeted for water projects construction.

"The tank at the Public Works Department will serve the city for drinking water and fire protection," said Howard. It will be two to three months before construction of the tank itself begins, said Howard.

Work at the Ellison Plant continues as a road is being put into the site and construction of underground drain lines begins. Also at the Ellison Plant, the city will be repairing silting basins and putting

See Water, 16-A



JOEY HOPPER

Joey Hopper Puts Students First

Joey Hopper believes that schools should be run for children, and he practices what he preaches.

Tuesday, Hopper was named Principal of the Year for the Kings Mountain School District - an honor decided by his peers.

"I feel very honored to represent such a fine group of people," said Hopper of his selection.

Hopper, 31, is in his third year as principal at North School and his 11th year with the school district. Prior to going to North he was an assistant principal at Kings Mountain Junior High and before that a teacher at Bethware Elementary.

"North School is run for chil-

dren, that's the major strength of this school," said Hopper. "We have a strong professional staff and they know what they're doing."

"We also have strong parent support here," he said citing as an example that 462 parents attended the Monday night PTO meeting and some 500 were at the first PTO meeting which was an open house.

North School has an enrollment of 385 children plus a Head Start program with 20 children. "We meet the needs of some very special children here. We have a self-contained resource room which serves as a normal classroom for students in kindergarten through third grade who have been desig-

nated severely handicapped."

Last summer, Hopper and some of his staff conducted a summer enrichment program for students and offered classes which ran the gamut from science and geometry to cooking and macrame. "All of the teachers involved volunteered their time for these classes and we had such a good response that they have said they will volunteer to do it again," Hopper said.

North School also has a number of parent involvement programs. "We have a core of teachers who designed a program for parents which offers classes in such things as how to use the home as a learn-

See Hopper, 16-A

SANTA CAME TO TOWN - Santa Claus makes his way through the Kings Mountain Christmas parade Sunday afternoon on a float created by the Kings Mountain Parks and Recreation Department. A crowd estimated at 3,500 to 4,000 watched on a warm, sunny day. More parade pictures are on page 2-B.

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