

NURSE

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"This age group of children does not get physical or seek medical care unless they're playing sports," she noted. "So we're dealing with the whole health of the child." She said the health care given needy students could mean the difference in whether or not they drop out of school.

The nurse practitioner assigned to KMHS--Diane Sanders--will be able to diagnose and treat ailments, and in some cases, prescribe medicine with the back-up of a physician. She has many years experience in her field and is certified by the North Carolina Medical Board.

Stallings said, in some cases, the nurse practitioner may learn that a student is pregnant and can refer her to a health clinic or agency without her parents' consent. However, she added, a pregnant student can go to any doctor's office and be treated without her parents' consent.

"That's the law," she said. Mrs. Stallings said if students go to the nurse practitioner and report that they are sexually active she would "make a referral" to get them some help.

"The first thing we would do is talk to them about abstinence and responsibility," she said. "But if they insist, we would refer them to help, either a private doctor or health department. But there's no way we would hand out any contraceptives or talk to them about abortion."

At the board meeting, Hardin said he sees some good in "parts" of the program but voiced his concern that the program might undermine parental authority, discuss or counsel on abortion, and cause legal problems if a student's health problem is mis-diagnosed.

"Will a health clinic in our high school, at some point in time, provide the necessary framework to

funnel a captive clientele of desperate and vulnerable pregnant girls into a system that at some point will present the option of abortion without parental knowledge, involvement, or consent?" he asked.

He said mis-diagnosis could lead to a law suit being filed against the school district "because they have the deepest pockets."

Hardin presented quotes from numerous experts, including Secretary of Education William Bennett, who said that school health clinics are "not effective" in reducing the teen pregnancy rate.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said after the meeting that he would like to see a reduction in the pregnancy rate but that the program can be successful even if that is not the case.

"Our hope is that it does reduce the pregnancy rate," he said, "but even if it does not we still believe many of these young ladies need better prenatal care. I think both sides of this issue would agree that better prenatal care should be a goal once a child is conceived. The other part, of course, is that we hope it will be much more than dealing with sexually related issues. We're committed to run the kind of program that, as time goes on, will be seen by people in the community and especially people who it serves as a valuable asset to the school system."

Board members Doyle Campbell and Billy King both stressed that the board will assure the public that the program is run responsibly.

"I don't know that we have all the answers," Campbell told Hardin. "I don't want the program

to turn into an adolescent pregnancy prevention program. We can monitor to assure that that doesn't happen and take the necessary measures to make sure that it doesn't happen."

King said he shares some of Hardin's concerns and that the board would watch funds that the Health Department is seeking that might require abortion counseling or disbursing contraceptives. "We're committed to monitoring the program to make sure it achieves the goals we set out for it," he said.

Hardin urged the board to "educate itself" on the "true nature" of organizations which influence school health clinics and "until you can say, with conscience clear, that the Kings Mountain clinic will be different, free from these influences and anti-family philosophies that do not reflect values of the citizenry of Kings Mountain...not to embark on such a dangerous experiment."

"If this board expects me to trust in decisions that critically affect my children, who my wife and I consider to be precious gifts of God entrusted to our, and not the state's care, then we expect you to take every pain and as much time as necessary to thoroughly understand all sides of the issues involved in this highly controversial and ominous decision."

Mrs. Stallings said one of the goals of the Health Department is to offer "preventive education" to help keep the students healthy and in school. "However," she said, "there will be no cases where a child will be required to hear the program."

New teacher contracts approved

The following personnel matters were approved at Monday night's meeting of the Kings Mountain Board of Education:

*New contracts - Judy Hancock, art, middle school; Susie Hughes, PE, Grover; Sylvia Neisler, kindergarten, West; Bonnie Bryson, second grade, West; Sherry Young, chorus, middle/high school; Amy Ross, guidance, middle school; Linda Bray, biology, high school; Stephanie Pasour, elementary music; Grace Mitchell, elementary Spanish; Jamie Lakey, dance, middle/high school; Florrie Hamrick, home/school coordinator, middle school; Rita Baker, social studies, middle school; Sharon Guyton, second grade, East; Ethel Crocker, fifth grade, Grover; Joyce Harrington, fourth grade, Grover; Thomas Wright, fifth grade, Grover; Marlene Bennett, fourth grade, Bethware; Barry Webster, PE, Bethware; Sheila Wyont, English, high school; Janet Anthony, fourth grade, Bethware; Jane Campbell, dance, middle/high school; Susan Gosselin, English,

high school; Kimberly Proctor, PE, middle school; Ruth Bridges, exceptional children, KMHS; and Lisa Neisler, elementary Spanish.

*Classified - David Turner, custodian/bus driver, KMHS; Jim Kale, custodian/bus driver, KMHS; Kathy Feemster, teacher assistant, Grover; Barbara Martin, cafeteria/bus driver, KMHS; Carol Lowrance, cafeteria/bus driver, KMHS; Lynn Pruitt, cafeteria/bus driver, KMHS; Debra Sizemore, cafeteria/bus driver, Bethware; Diane Randall, teacher assistant, East; Christi Caulder, teacher assistant, KMMS; Ada Bridges, teacher assistant, East; and Velry Montgomery, after school care, Grover.

*Leave of absence - Judy Whisnant, elementary music; Kevin Plonk, elementary guidance; Jamie Lakey, dance; Twyla Robinson, PE, KMMS; and Grace Mitchell, elementary Spanish.

*Resignations - Laura McGill, teacher, West; Pam Parker, teacher, KMMS; Melba Edwards, elemen-

tary AG teacher; Presphonia Burris, teacher assistant, East; Lana Wright, After School Care, Grover; and Jimmy Brisendine, custodian/bus driver, KMMS.

*Transfers - Paul Bolt, PE, Bethware to KMMS; Janet Smith, fourth grade Bethware to elementary guidance; Valerie Boyd, fourth grade Grover to fourth grade North; Susan White, fourth grade Bethware to elementary AG; Jada Hardin, Chapter I teacher assistant East to teacher assistant Grover; Teresa Biggerstaff, KMHS resource teacher to diagnostician.

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Open House set at West School

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Student transfers approved Monday

The following student transfers were approved at Monday night's meeting of the Kings Mountain Board of Education:

Released - Crystal White to Cleveland County Schools.

Acceptance renewals:

From Cleveland County - Greg Bowen, Donnie Bracket, Deana Brafford, Joshua Buchanan, Jeff Sisk, Tiffany Collins, Benjamin Godfrey, Marie Hughes, Kristie Jones, Michael Jones, Ben Knotts, Clint Knotts, Nicole Lail, Wesley Lail, Melissa McAbee, Rusty McAbee, Charles McSwain, Kristy McSwain, Heather Patterson, Jennifer Patterson, Trent Redmond, and Katie Stowe.

From Gaston County - Gavin Bell, Leah Clark, Steve Fredell, Rebekah Johnson, Scott Lowery, Chrystal Ormsby, Michael Ormsby, Miranda Ormsby, Travis Queen, Pamela Ruppe, Sheree Stowe, Heather Wright.

From South Carolina - Stephen Black, Holly Goforth, Grady Hall, Jessica Hall, Angela Hawkins, Scott Hawkins, Cristy Love, Robin Moss, Jeremy Owens, Liana Owens, Carrie Stowe, Clark Stowe, Misty Toney, Steve Watkins.

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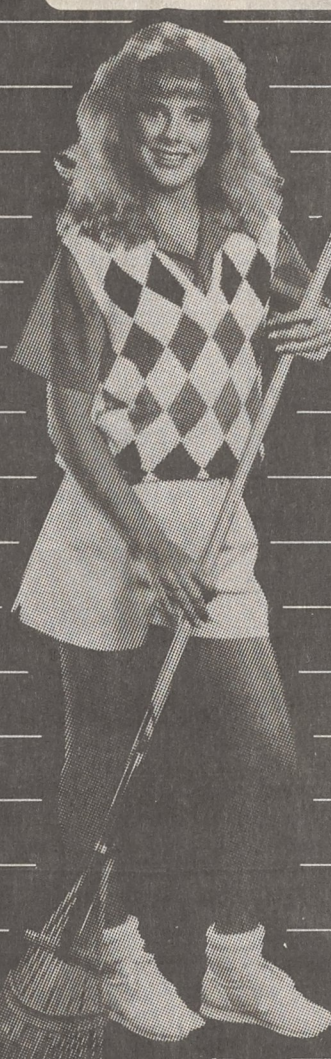
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