



Janet Smith, left, and Carol Dye are installed as new officers of the Kings Mountain Association of Educators by past state NCAE president and retired Kings Mountain teacher Dean Westmoreland, right, at the annual breakfast meeting of the chapter Tuesday.

NCAE

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tions for minorities, if they meet the criteria.

While thanking the board for increased supplements for 1992-93 and encouraging acceptance of a similar request for 1993-94, the group asked for free dental insurance, vision care, increased medical coverage, and additional increments in the local supplement scale with extra bonuses at 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, etc. years of service. They encouraged the board to "understand the impact of seniority on the morale of educators when making decisions on promotions, transfers, layoffs, or any policy affecting personnel" and said they are gravely concerned about changes in the personnel policies in the areas of RIF, promotion, grievance transfer, etc. and about the state budget situation which they fear could directly affect educational activities within the classroom.

They asked the board of education to make additional efforts to protect employees cars and property at school, that a particular afternoon each month be designated as a time for professional associations to meet; and that they do their utmost to ensure that personal and annual leave may be taken as outlined in the state guidelines.

The resolutions urged the administration to initiate plans to minimize the emphasis on various test

Grover's preliminary budget ok'd

GROVER - Town officials adopted a preliminary 1993-94 budget of \$249,000 Monday night, retaining the 29 cents per \$100 property tax rate with no increases in services.

"We think this is a good budget in spite of the fact that we may lose our \$7,000 recreation grant from the county," said Mayor Ronald Queen.

The board earmarked \$62,600 for Town Hall office operations, including salaries of \$16,250 for the six elected officials, \$27,000 for office employees, and \$42,000 for the police department.

Health care costs will account for \$9,300 and legal and professional fees will account for \$9,500 in the budget. Total maintenance operations will account for \$46,300, including \$26,000 for salaries and \$9,400 for equipment.

The Police department gets the biggest share of the budget pie, \$67,000 and includes salaries and wages, \$42,000; retirement and insurance costs; law enforcement liability; vehicle gas of \$4,500; uniforms, \$1,500; vehicle repair, \$1,200; and training, \$1,300.

The proposed budget for water/sewer is \$168,000 with expenses expected to be \$94,000 and sewer operation \$74,000.

The town will spend \$32,000 from the Powell Fund for street paving.

The fire department will receive \$11,000. Budgeted for street lights is \$7,000 and for school street lights \$300. Sidewalk repair is expected to cost \$5,000. Sanitation and landfill costs are expected to be \$7,300.

Mayor Ronald Queen asked the dozen or more people at the meeting to recycle. "We don't want to start charging tipping fees but landfill costs are going up," he warned.

Public hearing on the budget will be conducted June 28 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

■ The Stanleys of Loris, S.C. will be in concert June 13 at 11 a.m. at Pathway Baptist Church, Parkdale Circle, Kings Mountain. The public is invited.

scores and rearrange schedules to reduce the overwhelming paperwork, excessive extra curricular meetings and conflicts with KMAE meetings. The resolutions asked that majority of mandatory work days be used for personal classroom work instead of staff development and for more school allotments for money for supplies in art, science, math and social studies.

After adopting the resolutions submitted by a committee headed by Betsy Wells, the group added a new resolution, inviting membership in the association to include members of the school board and administrators.

Wells said that 110 people, or 70 percent of the membership, participated in a survey which resulted in formation of the resolutions, approved unanimously without discussion. Fifty-six members ranked discipline at school as good and 30 said that improvements are needed. Only two teachers voted against a salary increase and 90 said that at least \$6,000 is needed for Saxon math, science and reward trips for classroom students. Fifty-five teachers said teacher morale was good and 40 said morale was poor. All asked for more fringe benefits and all cited the strengths of the school system, including classroom size, dedicated teachers, KMAE leadership, responsive administrators and involvement of staff in decision making at schools. One teacher cited cliques in some schools and others said class size should be reduced in elementary schools and aides should be hired for grades 4-5. "Spend money on the kids first," said responders.

Carolyn McWhirter, KMAE president who is retiring after 30 years at Kings Mountain High School, passed the gavel of leadership to new president, Janet Smith. Other officers are Jackie Blanton, vice-president; Dorcas Beasley, secretary; and Carol Dye, treasurer.

Retired KMHS teacher Dean Westmoreland, a past state president of the NCAE, installed the new officers at an end-of-school breakfast and annual meeting in the KMHS Cafeteria. Retiring teachers Bob Jones, Carolyn McWhirter and Emma Blalock were presented appreciation gifts.

Members of the resolutions committee, in addition to Wells, were Brenda Blanton, Mike Smith, Peggy McDowell, Steve Wells, Patti Weathers, McWhirter, Hilda Leonard and Bill Hager.

The chapter voted to pay \$800 of Smith's expenses to the National Association of Educators annual convention in California.

CENTRAL

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school year and Ronnie Wilson will present details of a proposed alternative evaluation program.

The board will appoint a member to the Education Foundation and probably reschedule the July meeting. A request for a diving camp at Neisler Natatorium is also on the agenda.

The board will hold an executive session to evaluate McRae's performance as superintendent which it does annually.



Retiring KMAE president Carolyn McWhirter presents the gavel to Janet Smith at the annual end-of-school breakfast meeting of the Association of Educators Tuesday at Kings Mountain High School.

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Hunt only area legislator in favor of open meetings

Four of five local legislators opposed the amended N.C. Senate version of House Bill 120 to strengthen North Carolina's Open Meetings Law.

Rep. Jack Hunt of Lattimore, Democrat, wholeheartedly supports the passage.

Democratic Senator J. Ollic Harris, Kings Mountain, and Representative Edith Lutz of Lawndale, and John Weatherly, Republican of Kings Mountain, said they favored the original bill but voted against the Senate version.

The bill passed the Senate in a different form but remains in a conference committee which is rehashing two or three points on which the bills differed in the House and Senate to compromise.

Hunt of Cleveland and Rep. David Hoyle of Gaston County wholeheartedly support the Senate version which would require open discussion of hiring once the process got to the interview stage, open discussion of performance of evaluation and discussion of such positions as city and county manager, school superintendent, police chief, community college and UNC president, etc. in open sessions and would assess penalties to groups meetings behind closed doors and with their attorneys.

Ken Eudy, spokesman for the North Carolina Press Association and North Carolina Press Services Inc., said that the main differences concern attorney/client privileges and personnel.

"We think it's the public's right to know and the public is paying the bill for high salaried individuals," said Eudy who said that Hunt has been a strong supporter for open meetings.

The conference committee debating the issue probably will make a decision in about two weeks, according to Eudy who was in Raleigh Tuesday.

Weatherly, Harris and Lutz said they voted for the House version of the bill which allows county commissioners and city boards to go behind closed doors in matters of hiring, evaluating personnel and to discuss property acquisition.

"I was not in favor of the bill as it came to the floor because it called for open meetings in all instances, which I think is totally unreasonable," said Weatherly, who served on a county board of commissioners in Catawba County four years.

"People would refuse to serve on boards and you wouldn't get top notch people for jobs if you advertised their names before they were hired," said Harris.

Weatherly said he had no clamor from the public for strengthening of the open meetings law, just the media.

"It's my philosophy that people

basically trust the people they elect," said Weatherly.

Once the committee resolves the matter, the bill returns to each body to decide whether to confer or not.

"It might be the best thing that happens if the bill dies," said Weatherly.

Harris said the hottest item the Senate was discussing this week was the lottery issue, which he strongly opposes, as does Weatherly, David Hoyle and Jim Forrester, the latter two legislators of Gaston County.

"I'm against gambling and would vote to raise taxes to keep the lottery out," said Harris.

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