

## SCHOOLS

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From page 1-A to the citizens to keep them informed.

Sees criticized the school system for teaching subjects such as anal and oral sex which he said are not in the curriculum that he picked up at the Superintendent's Office. "If it's going to be taught in the classroom, a parent needs to be able to pick up the curriculum and see it," he said. "Parents need to know exactly what is taught in the classroom."

He also said the system needs to keep the public informed of meetings on curriculum revision. He said the part of the curriculum that is mandated by the state says that "all schools should hold parent information meetings...parents should be given opportunities to review materials...and that police, Ministerial Associations and other public groups should be shown materials in public meetings."

"They say whatever you're going to do, let the public see it," Sees told the board.

McRae said while public meetings on curriculum revision aren't mandated by the state, the state suggests that local boards "should" hold such meetings. "Should is a strong suggestion," he said, "and we don't need to ignore it."

McRae said several meetings have been held at several schools, and more are scheduled in the coming weeks.

"We certainly feel like we've informed people," he said. "Sometimes unless somebody doesn't tell us we're not getting the word out good enough we have no reason to suspect that we're not. We have an obligation to do that, and if we're not doing it as effective as we could we ought to attend to that and make a special effort to give adequate notice."

McRae also pointed out that past meetings have not been well-attended, very often with just two or three parents showing up. He said in many cases the system has found that school officials make better use of their time by sitting down with concerned parents on a one-on-one basis.

"Even though that may not be sufficient reason in itself not to have meetings, it does cause you to think if it's the best use of your time to go out and conduct a meeting for two or three people," he said.

After Monday's meeting, McRae said that many parents have requested that the School System institute a policy of offering two different sex education courses - abstinence only and abstinence plus - and allow the parents to choose which is best for their child.

"I don't think that's been considered in the past, but we will certainly talk about it," McRae said. "I would not say it is without possibility that it might occur. It's not just a simple matter to offer a second curriculum, whatever that curriculum might be. It is accomplished easier in large systems that have teachers that only teach family life education. In terms of using our personnel, regardless of which curriculum would be most favored by the community, it's not just a

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simple chore to add a second curriculum. But it is important to listen to requests, determine how extensive they are, and determine how best to use our existing resources."

McRae said the Family Life curriculum, first adopted in 1983, has undergone few revisions since then. The video questioned by Mrs. Bolin and Mrs. McAbee that deal with different sex acts and development of the anatomy was purchased in 1987 and has been used ever since, except for sections on homosexuality and the live birth of a baby which McRae said the system declared was inappropriate for fifth through ninth grade students.

McRae said students are totally separated by gender in the fifth grade and they are separated for portions of the curriculum in higher grades. "I would not assume that from time to time when students are together for other subjects like dating, diseases, etc., that questions don't come up that may relate to the other," he said.

McRae said teachers are told to be very careful not to get into "questionable" areas in mixed company, and are encouraged to be

"very conservative" about how they answer questions.

"Nevertheless, we have some folks who are very interested in separating kids for everything," he said. "I'm not sure we'll do that but we will certainly take their suggestions and look at them."

McRae said the system will take all concerns seriously and discuss the curriculum "in great detail." He said he feels the Health Council has included a broad spectrum of the community, including educators, parents, health professionals and religious leaders, and has served the system well. "I don't think it's fair to say that this is not a viable way to ascertain community input," he said. "Maybe it's not as comprehensive as we might want it to be in the future, but it's no reason for it not to continue to be a major part of the dialogue."

Sees told the board to work with the citizens to do what is best for all children. "We need to unite the community and not be divisive," he said. "The community is not aware of what the schools are doing and the schools are not aware of what the community wants."

## GROVER

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chairs the committee which recommends to the full board for action, suggested a pay back plan over a six year period.

Harry said that Grover Industries and Minette Mills shared a wastewater treatment plant but recently went through a "friendly divorce" and is presently in the engineering process for a new plant to begin operation in June 1995.

Harry said he had met previously with King Mountain officials but sewer rates were never discussed.

"The economics could kill the plan even if the state backs it," said Harry, who said he was not prepared to make an official request to Kings Mountain to hook on to Kings Mountain's lines possibly at Long Branch or Bethlehem Road.

"The project is worth consideration," said Guyton.

Ollis said that Kings Mountain's Pilot Creek plant is permitted at six million gallons per day. With Basin 3 out-of-service, it is operable as 4 MGD. Ollis said the March average was 4.025 MGD and the April average was 3.8 MGD.

## Parsons: Morale picking up

City employees were called in by Interim City Manager Maxine Parsons Tuesday morning beginning at 7:45 a.m. to talk with them about current budget cuts the Council is considering in the 1994-95 budget.

"I feel very good about the input from all the employees and feel the morale is picking up," said Parsons, who took the city's top job March 21 after George Wood resigned to take a similar position with the City of Cleveland, Tennessee.

Parsons said she apprised the 160-plus employees of the Council's plans to up by a small percentage dependent insurance coverage paid by employees, one of the cost-savings measures approved by Council at a special meeting on the budget Monday night.

Meeting with the employees, in addition to Parsons, were Mayor Scott Neisler, Mayor Pro Tem Rick Murphey and Personnel Director Winston Bagley.

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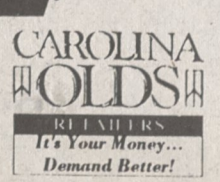
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