

Committee asks for more teachers

The committee which studied the school system's reading program recommended to the Board of Education Monday that more teachers be hired in grades 1 and 2 to reduce class size and more money be allocated for books.

Kathryn Blanton and Jane Blake presented the report of the 19-member committee.

Blanton said the committee places a priority in grade 2 of concentration on reading and math while integrating content areas to teach basic concepts.

In Grades K-5, the recommendations included more books, the need to read aloud in the classroom at least 30 minutes in grades K-2 and 15 minutes daily in grades 3-5 and a time for silent reading. Books and reading materials should be made more accessible to students.

Blanton said that development of an acceleration program would insure that all students are successful readers and Jane Blake talked about the current program underway at the Middle School.

Early intervention programs and teacher training with at-risk students were pointed out as a need in grades K-5 as well as the need for more teachers beginning with grades 1-2 and continuing in grades K,3,4, and 5 as funds are available.

In K-2, the committee suggested the board look at the feasibility of a transition classroom in K-1, 1-2 until funds are available to reduce class size and in Kindergarten classes to provide parent conferences as a means of reporting student programs in the first and third nine weeks. Another suggestion was that parent conferences be required at mid-term in grades 1-3.

Development of a literacy checklist and a portfolio on each student while involving parents, the community and other agencies in reading programs is a must. Expand the community-in schools program and implement individual school plans for community involvement is important.

Blanton said that more time is needed in the school day for reading in K-5 and suggested that the school day be expanded by 20 minutes with opening bell at 8:10 a.m. and closing bell at 2:50 p.m.

Blanton said that teachers report interruption with intercom and greater "time on task" should be encouraged.

More staff development was recommended with further training for teachers and assistants to work with at-risk students.

Creation of a teacher resource center is much needed, said Blanton.

Blake said that the Middle School will send information packets to parents on the importance of state testing and the Literacy Committee will work this summer using staff development money to correlate KMMS reading program with North Carolina Standard Course of Study and to revise the previously developed reading notebooks.

She said the committee will also examine the end-of-grade reading scores and offer staff development identified areas of weaknesses. She said textbook monies will be used to purchase computers and disks, transparencies, cliffhangers, novel sets and parent information packets.

Blake said the accelerated reader program is being used school-wide and successfully at the Middle School.

Students select a book from over 2500 titles and each book is assigned points depending on its level of difficulty. The student reads the book, then takes a computerized test. The computer awards him or her points according to the number of correct answers given: 30 points for A; 20 points for B; 15 points for C; and 10 points for D. For each nine week grading period the accelerated reader constitutes 50 percent of the reading grade and class work the other 50 percent.

Journals kept in reading classes will be a part of English class.

Blake said that more computers are needed in the 1995-96 school year to increase the remediation time for students.

Blake suggested that more staff development will model practical applications of reading programs and that the library should be open to students the first day of school and close the last day of school.



COMPLETES CLERK'S SCHOOL - Marilyn Sellers, City of Kings Mountain City Clerk, is congratulated by Mayor Scott Neisler after she completed requirements and schooling to be a certified municipal clerk. Sellers was presented the plaque by Neisler at the recent City Council meeting.

Senior play begins Thursday at KMHS

Kings Mountain High School seniors will ring up the curtain on "Robin Hood," a comedy of errors, by Dan Neidermyer, Thursday night at 7:30.

Performances are also on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30.

Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.

Betsy W. Wells is directing the production.

Water safety course planned at Red Cross

The Cleveland County Chapter of the American Red Cross will offer a course for water safety instructors which will train participants to teach swim lessons.

Anyone interested in the class should call the Red Cross office at 487-8594 for more information. The dates and time for the class will be set later.

Writing scores improve

Writing scores in each of the elementary schools improved on recent state tests, Director of Student Services Jean Thrift told the Kings Mountain Board of Education Monday night.

While the eighth graders improved, the improvement was not as substantial, said Thrift.

Reviewing the results of tests, Thrift said fourth grade students at Bethware and West Schools scored above the state average.

Thrift said she was disappointed in the sixth grade scores and that

Dr. Jane King and Principal John Goforth are working on additional staff development opportunities at the Middle School.

Thirty percent of the students at West School scored a 3.0 and 36 percent of the students at Bethware scored a 3.0. At West 17.9 percent of the students scored a 3.5 in the North Carolina Writing Assessment and 5.1 percent of Bethware students scored a 3.5. In North Carolina 2.4 percent of the state's fourth graders scored 4.0 and 27.1 percent scored a 3.0.

Nance working on budget

City Manager Chuck Nance was working at home Tuesday afternoon on the 1995-96 fiscal year budget.

Nance will present current year's estimations and projected revenue for 1995-96 at a budget retreat of Kings Mountain City Council Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at City Hall.

He will be assisted in the presentations by Finance Director Maxine Parsons.

Department heads will make brief presentations for requests for funds for inclusion in the new bud-

get and respond to questions of Council.

The Council will break for lunch at 12:30 and continue the workshop after lunch.

Nance says he is hopeful that the workshop can be completed by 5 p.m. but if not the board will continue on Sunday afternoon to wrap it up.

Last week Mrs. Parsons estimated that the new budget will not be drastically different from the budget she prepared for 1994-95 because the city will need to continue "to hold the line on expenditures."

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