

Non-certified school employees to receive pay raise

Some 235 non-certified employees in the Kings Mountain District Schools will receive a substantial pay raise effective July 1.

The cost to implement the 30-step salary schedule is about a quarter of a million dollars and has been appropriated for the new school year in the 1997-98 budget.

"This has been a long time incoming," said Board Chairman Ronnie Hawkins at Monday night's board of education meeting at Central School.

A portion of the cost is paid for by the recent upping of the school supplement tax from 18

cents to 19 cents per \$100 property valuation to taxpayers. Revenue from a hike in school-purchased meals would generate another \$40,000 to help for the salary implementation.

The 30-step plan is experienced based. For instance a beginning teacher assistant on a pay grade of 54 would receive \$1227.69 per month for 10 months in step O but if she worked for the system in the same position for 10 years she would receive \$1427.07 monthly and if she stayed with the schools for 20 years she would be paid \$1928.25 per month. A Child Nutrition Assistant II in step 52 would get a beginning

salary of \$1150.92 and after 30 years would receive \$1781.92 per month.

Supt. Dr. Bob McRae said the State Board of Education class specifications and pay grades were used as the baseline system for part of the process. Individual positions were classified according to duties and responsibilities and employees in those positions were placed on the salary schedule according to experience in the system.

McRae said the compensation study was conducted over several months by Causby/Boyd Associates and no individual factors regarding any specific employee were reviewed such

as performance, longevity and individual credentials such as education and training.

McRae said that the 1993 General Assembly passed legislation that requires local boards of education to pay clerical, teacher assistant and custodial personnel at least an average salary in each class equal to the average state allocation for each class. He said the 98 percent requirement for teacher assistants and custodians will cost Kings Mountain an additional \$25,744.04.

By its unanimous action the board adopted the State Board of Education pay grades, setting

the minimum and maximum salaries for all classes of employees. The board adopted the 30-step schedule for each pay grade that allows for placement of various levels and provides for possible increment increases when dollars are available. Placement on the schedule is made according to years of ex-

perience using 1-year experience increments for each step.

The board did not pass the recommendation by the consultants on special bonuses based on specific established criteria but indicated it may look at the recommendation at a later date when funds would become available.

School lunch prices to increase

School lunch prices go up a dime for students and a quarter for adults for the fall term of school.

The Kings Mountain Board of Education approved the new schedule of meal prices Monday.

Breakfast will go up from 65

cents to 75 cents for students and from 75 cents to \$1 for adults.

Elementary lunch prices will rise from \$1.25 to \$1.35.

Middle and High School lunch will cost \$1.45 instead of \$1.35.

Fast food costs will rise from \$1.60 to \$1.70 at the Middle School and from \$1.70 to \$1.80 at the high school. Adult meals at the Middle and High School will rise from \$2.00 to \$2.25.

An additional increase on selected a la cart items will include: tea, from 40 cents to 50

cents and ice cream from 60 cents to 65 cents.

Child Nutrition Director Patsy Rountree said the increases are necessary due to the increase in food costs, labor costs and to help implement the new salary schedule and pay for equipment.

KM Schools considering dress code

Baggy pants which often times drop below the waist and are worn without a belt will be a "no no" in the Kings Mountain School System's new system-wide dress code.

The Kings Mountain Board of Education took a look at policies for both students and teachers at Monday night's meeting and Supt. Dr. Bob McRae conducted the policy's first reading.

McRae said that while faculties were unanimous in their approval of the new student dress code, a first, they were not unanimous but a majority of teachers approved the dress code for teachers.

"All personnel will dress with

good taste, appropriately attired for the work to be done," reads the new addition to the faculty policy. "While the matter of personal dress is in large part a measure of personal style, the Board of Education does believe that certain standards in regards to expectations for employee dress are appropriate. To this end the ongoing expectation for employee dress is that very casual apparel is inappropriate for days when students are in attendance or for when parent conferences are held. Examples of such wear are casual shorts, jeans, sweatsuits, windsuits, and extremely tight fitting clothing. Shoes should be neat and clean." Exceptions based on specific

activities or work assignments and for teacher workdays may be granted by the principal of each school keeping in mind the spirit of these expectations, the policy reads.

The student policy points out that shorts and skirts shall be an appropriate length, not too short as defined by the school. Clothing should not display an obscene, lewd, suggestive or vulgar message nor any message which might be derogatory or insulting to others. Messages or advertisements on clothing which promote or encourage the use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are also prohibited.

Shoes must be worn at all times, the policy stipulates.

Clothing that is revealing and/or sexually suggestive and consequently a disruption to the learning process is not permitted. Such dress includes, but is not limited to tops which reveal the midriff of the student, fishnet clothing and very tight clothing. Students are not to wear hats, caps, bandanas or sun glasses/shades inside the building.

The policy points out that the administration of the school is charged with determining if a student's dress complies with the regulations. When it is determined that a student is not in compliance, the administration shall require the student to change his/her attire to be in compliance.

Bojangles' KM opening huge success

Opening weekend crowds of 3,000 were served Bojangles chicken biscuits at Kings Mountain's new Cleveland Avenue restaurant.

Area Manager Claude Clark said the response to the new Kings Mountain business has been tremendous.

The 3600 square foot facility was built at a cost of \$900,000. Forty-five store employees were ready for the opening on Friday, according to Clark, who said a more formal grand opening will be held later.

Clark said Bojangles will probably feature Carolina Panther and Charlotte Hornet players in the grand opening of its 125th corporate store and

number 550 for Bojangles, headquarters in Charlotte. Bojangles operates three stores in Gastonia, one in Belmont and one in Shelby.

Clark said Bojangles is testing a new chicken, a combination of Cajun and Southern which is spicy but "not too hot," he says. Clark said only one customer has complained that his chicken was too spicy.

Tony Federico is local manager. Store hours are 5:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 6 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday. Breakfast is available all day and serving of chicken starts at 9:30 a.m. daily.

The facility has a dining room capacity of 96.



BOJANGLES OPENS - The new Bojangles opened Friday to large crowds. Amanda Clayburn, in chicken outfit, welcomes one of the youngest first customers, Denise Childers, 18 months, to the Kings Mountain store.

Cleveland County extends option on land

County commissioners have extended for four months their options on two potential industrial park sites.

The commissioners voted 6-1 at the recent meeting with Ralph Gilbert the only dissenter.

County Attorney Julian Wray said the extensions will cost the county nothing and is necessary because of some "technicalities that need to be cleared up."

By their action the commissioners extended options on the R. Grier Plonk property, 235 acres in the Bethware Community near Kings Mountain, and the Shelby Loan North site, 329 acres northwest of Shelby.

Commission Chairman Jim Crawley had earlier predicted that the county would buy a site before the options expire June 12.

"We have two live options," he said.

Economic development officials have said that development of a county industrial

park would be an incentive for new industry to the area. A group of local investors is ready to construct a shell building on the property.

The commissioners evaluated three sites the Cleveland County Economic Development Commission recommended to them with the Plonk site picked as the number one site. The county purchased the options on the two sites Oct. 15, 1996 and extended them Jan. 21. The commission also purchased an option on seven acres - owned by the heirs of the McSwain family - adjacent to the Plonk property.

The options gave the county the right to buy the Shelby Loan property for \$6,000 an acre and the Plonk property for \$5,400.

David Pond, an engineer for W. K. Dickson Company of Charlotte, estimated at a public hearing conducted by the board costs for site development at \$6.3 million for the Plonk property and \$11.3 million for the Shelby Loan site.

Sally McIntyre wins Sullivan Award

Sally Gray McIntyre, who was youth minister at Central United Methodist Church in Kings Mountain for the past two years, was presented the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award during Wofford College's commencement ceremony May 17. McIntyre was given the award because of her demonstrated love and service to mankind and for her spirit of helpfulness to others.

A religion and sociology major, McIntyre is the daughter of Dewitte Gray and Jane London McIntyre of Charlotte. She is a

member of Blue Key National Honor Fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, Panhellenic, and Kappa Delta social sorority. In 1995-96, she received the "Make a Difference" award and the Spartanburg Children's Shelter "Volunteer of the Year" Award.

Established in 1926 by the New York Southern Society, the Sullivan Awards Program honors the memory and outstanding character of the Society's founder, Algernon Sydney Sullivan, and his wife, Mary Mildred Sullivan.

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