



KM Won't Participate In Merger Study

By GARY STEWART
Editor

The Kings Mountain Board of Education voted unanimously Monday night not to participate in a merger feasibility study of the three school systems in Cleveland County.

During its regular monthly meeting at Bethware Elementary School, Board Chairperson Marion Thomasson asked each board member individually to give his views on the matter, and only Harold Lineberger gave any indication that he would support a study.

Lineberger said he would like to see a study "if it could be done by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and would not cost any money."

The subject of a possible merger arose several weeks ago following a series of articles in the Shelby Daily Star. About three weeks ago, the three school boards met informally at the County Law Enforcement Center in Shelby and discussed briefly whether or not they would be interested in studying a merger.

At that time, Cleveland County Board members, in an individual poll, all said they favored a study. Some Shelby board members said they favored it, and others said they might. Of the four Kings Mountain Board members present (Lineberger was not present), Mrs. Thomasson and Kyle Smith said they were not in favor of a study and Bill McDaniel

and June Lee said they were undecided.

Since then, both the Shelby and Cleveland County boards have gone on record as favoring a study, which if done by a professional group outside the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, would probably cost in excess of \$50,000.

Mrs. Thomasson led off Monday night's discussion by saying "I'm against a study. I have been against it from the beginning. If we're not interested in merging, I don't see any need to spend time and money on studying it."

McDaniel said, "When it came up, I was interested in participating in a discussion. Since things have evolved as they have, I haven't found the first

person that's in favor of it, so I'm against it."

Mrs. Lee added, "I was one of those that indicated that I like to study an issue as much as possible. But, I feel like Bill. I do not vote for a study."

Smith said he was against it from the beginning and still is. "I've talked to three or four hundred people," he said, "and I can't find a soul who is in favor of it."

"It wouldn't matter that much to me," said Lineberger, "but I wouldn't want to spend money for a study. But if we could get it done for nothing from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, I would like to see it. I don't think you can rule out a study but I'm not in favor of a merger."

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Grade Changes Top Priority Of Committee

By WILLIAM F. DAVIS

On March 9, the Kings Mountain School Board appointed a Blue Ribbon Citizens' Committee to study the school facilities of the School District. The purpose of the committee was to identify both long range and immediate facility needs of the school system and to establish priorities. The School Board made certain that all of the schools were represented on the committee. The following residents of the Kings Mountain School District were appointed to the committee: James Adams, Doyle Campbell, Roy Duncan, Hazel Gill, Bill Grissom, Fain Hambricht, Paul Hord, Tommy Keeter, Mrs. Lynn Mauney, Bob Myers, William Orr, Mrs. Shirley Roper, Mrs. Sara Shawm, Cameron Ware, John Warlick and Bob Webster. Mrs. Marion Thomasson and Mrs. June Lee, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the School Board, served as ex-officio members of the committee.

The first meeting of the committee was held April 6 at which time the stage was set for what needed to be done in terms of identifying the facility needs of the school system. At the first several meetings the committee reviewed a school survey which had been made in 1978 by the Division of School Planning of the State Department of Public Instruction.

The committee met seven times in all. Four of the meetings involved visitation of the schools so that the members could see for themselves the facility needs of each school.

At the School Board meeting on this past Monday night the Blue Ribbon Committee delivered its report to the Kings Mountain Board of Education. Following is the substance of the recommendations which were made to the Board. In reading these recommendations it should

be remembered that the committee is advisory and the recommendations are not binding on the Board. The School Board will give these recommendations great weight in making decisions regarding school facility improvements.

Priority 1: The first priority of the committee is to move sixth and seventh graders which are at Central School to more adequate facilities.

Central School is a three story building of wood frame-masonry construction, most of which was constructed in the 1920's. Because of its age and the nature of its construction the Central School building does not fit into long range facility plans for the school system.

The prevailing sentiment of the committee is to move grade seven to the Kings Mountain Junior High School. Grade nine would be moved to the Senior High in order to make room for grade seven at the Junior High. If the School Board acts upon this suggestion Central School would no longer be a school site but would be used for other purposes. If this plan is implemented the grade organization will be: K-6 - Bethware, East, Grover, North and West; 7-8 - Kings Mountain Junior High; 9-12 - Kings Mountain Senior.

Priority No. 2: The committee observed during its school visitations that most of the elementary schools are a mixture of old construction and facilities of a more recent vintage. The second priority is to replace or improve old facilities at the elementary schools and provide sufficient classroom space and ancillary facilities at all the elementary sites. There was some discussion relative to phasing out East Elementary and West Elementary and constructing a new South Elementary. However, this issue is being left for con-

Turn To Page 6-A



Photo by Gary Stewart

RECEIVES AWARD - Sara Simpson, left, vice president of the Kings Mountain Association of Classroom Teachers, presents a plaque to Marion A. Thomasson, chairman of the Kings Mountain Board of Education, in appreciation

of Mrs. Thomasson's services to education during her six-year term on the board. The presentation was made at the Board of Education meeting Monday night at Bethware School.

Paysour Gets Central Post

Greg Paysour, eighth grade science teacher at Kings Mountain Junior High School, was named Assistant Principal at Central School Monday night by the Kings Mountain District Board of Education.

Paysour will assume his new duties as soon as a replacement for him at the junior high can be found.

Central has been without an assistant principal since Richard Greene's resignation as Principal on October 1. Mrs. Glenda O'Shields, who had been assistant principal, was promoted to

the principal's post at that time and Donald Parker, a retired Kings Mountain teacher, had served part-time as an assistant to Mrs. O'Shields.

Paysour has taught at the junior high since his graduation from Gardner-Webb College in 1974. He received his degree in School Administration from UNC-Charlotte in 1980.

Paysour is a Cherryville native, and graduated from Cherryville High School in 1967. He served two years in the U.S. Navy and served four years in the Naval Reserves. He was

discharged from the Reserves in 1977 as a Petty Officer Second Class.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Paysour of Cherryville and is married to the former Jeannie Bowen of Grover. He is the father of two children, Jennifer, a first grader at Bethware School, and Derek, who will be one year old in December.

In addition to his teaching duties at the junior high, he has also served as a football and basketball coach.

"I am looking forward to going to Central and working with Mrs. O'Shields and the Central teachers," Paysour said.

In other action Monday night, the board:

*Heard statistics on the Food

Turn To Page 7-A

Thanksgiving Service Set

Rev. Clyde Bearden, pastor of First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain, will be the speaker for this year's Community Thanksgiving Service Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Macedonia Baptist Church.

The service is sponsored each year by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association.

Miss Delores White, music director at Macedonia, will direct the music and choir.

Area ministers will serve as ushers and the offering will go

Turn To Page 4-A

Kings Mountain Told To Pay Contractor

The City of Kings Mountain lost two law suits in Cleveland County civil court last week.

A jury ruled Friday that the city must pay \$23,300 to Cecil's Inc., a Spartanburg construction firm which built the Government Services Facilities Center (new city hall).

Cecil's filed the suit after the City Board of Commissioners withheld \$23,300 from its final payment. The amount represented \$100 a day withheld because the construction period exceeded a contract clause which stipulated that construction must be completed in 365 days.

But, Cecil's claimed the 264 day overrun on the project was due to bad weather and a fire which occurred during the construction period. The city allow-

ed 17 days for bad weather and 14 days for the fire, for a total of 233 days.

A counter-suit of \$65,000, filed by the city against Cecil's, was dismissed by Judge John Friday. The city claimed the delay in construction caused it extra architectural fees and a possible loss of additional federal grants.

Mayor John Henry Moss said the city withheld the money on the recommendation of its consulting engineers and architects.

Testimony in the trial began last Monday and ended Thursday. The jury deliberated about two hours Friday before reaching its decision.

City Attorney George Thomasson appealed the decision.

Honduras Has Some Mold Too

Dr. John Brooks, an allergist, treated Tanya Bodden, a five-year old girl from Honduras for her allergies at his Kings Mountain office on Tuesday. Tanya was with her parents, Thomas and Mireya Bodden, as they visited her aunt Mrs. Lizette Lacomb at Shelby. Tanya's pediatrician at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, had had difficulty in treating her bronchospasm [allergic breaking problem].

"When Mrs. Lacomb contacted my office, my staff and I became very interested," said Dr. Brooks. "Before I could be sure I could help her I needed more information about her illness and about Honduras. If the problem was purely allergic, then I was pretty sure I could handle it."

The first place information was obtained from Mauney Memorial Library in Kings Mountain. Mrs. Margaret McCarter gathered information



Photo by Gary Stewart

TREATED HERE - Tanya Bodden of Honduras, pictured at left with her parents, Mireya and Thomas Bodden, is treated for allergies by Dr. John Brooks and his nurse, Fran Rayfield, right, at Dr. Brooks' office in

Kings Mountain Tuesday. Dr. Brooks obtained information from her parents, Mauney Memorial Library, and the Honduras Embassy in Washington to prescribe the right medication.

Turn To Page 7-A