

Feb. 18, 1982

Clark Public Library,
305 Westfield Ave.,
Clark, N.J. 07066

Clark Patriot

"A Voice for All, an Echo for None"

REFERENCE
LIBRARY USE ONLY

VOL. 11 NO. 1

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1982

USPS 457-010

30 CENTS

Board oks pacts with executives

By R. R. Faszczewski

Two-year contracts with major executive offices personnel in the Clark school system were approved by the township's Board of Education on Feb. 9.

Contracts, to run for the current school year and for the 1983-1984 school year, were approved for the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John T. Farinella; the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, Philip A. Miller; the principal, the coordinator of curriculum and instruction, the director of special services and business office executive secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Rybak.

The only person not to have his salary set on Feb. 9 was Dr. Farinella. He is expected to be evaluated by the Board members at their Tuesday, Feb. 23, meeting, and the school body may take action on his salary at that time.

Salary amounts for other personnel were not disclosed, although that information is available in the Board's office, reports a spokeswoman.

In other action, the Board

Approved the abolition of five classroom teaching positions, one music teaching position and the cutting of the teaching time of one physical education instructor to half of its present length in accordance with the district organization plan and 1982-1983 budget provisions.

Okayed a sick leave of absence for Mrs. Ann Rinaldi, the librarian at the Charles H. Brewer School, from Friday, March 12, to Thursday, Sept. 30, of this year.

Gave its permission for Mrs. Rinaldi's retirement, effective on Friday, Oct. 1, with commendation for more than 12 years of service.

Granted Mrs. Charlene Parker, 20 additional sick days at full pay, and approved her sick leave of absence from Wednesday, March 17, to Wednesday, June 30.

Approved the retirement of Mrs. Alice

Schenker, who has been the executive secretary to all the township's superintendent of schools, with commendation for more than 22 years of service, effective on Thursday, April 8.

Agreed to the hiring of Mrs. Doris Tech as a science teacher from Feb. 8 to June 30 of this year at an annual salary of \$12,500. It was explained she will replace Mrs. Parker while she is on sick leave.

Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Nancy Kusner as an intramural teacher, effective immediately.

Approved the employment of Mark Bednar as a teacher aide to replace Mrs. Kusner, and to work with James Carvillano in conducting the Winter Intramural Gymnastics Program, to be paid at \$3.50 per hour worked, not to exceed \$70.

Okayed a contract for the Juveniles in Need of Supervision Program with Union County at the rate of \$14 per day.



AND, AT THE KEYBOARD: A mid-winter concert was presented on Feb. 10 at the Charles H. Brewer School in Clark. Instrumental and vocal director Frederick Fischer prepared a program which included the concert band and the sixth grade chorus. Highlights of the evening were the theme from "The Greatest American Hero" and "The Yellow Submarine." An instrumental solo was played by Susan McGarry, left, and Kim MacDougall singing "Ave Maria" with the choir. Another highlight of the evening was the instrumental solo by the concert band's rendition of "The Star Wars" M.P.A.S.H.

Union County's needy get surplus cheese

Needy families in Union County will soon be receiving five pounds of American Cheese, according to Anthony J. DiGiovanni, the chapter chairman of the Greater Union County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Mr. DiGiovanni pointed out, "the cheese is being made available to Union County's needy families by the federal government. New Jersey is to receive approximately one million pounds of almost 30 million pounds of the federal surplus that is being released nationwide. The 30 million pounds represents approximately 3% of the federal surplus that is stored in Federal warehouses. The cheese, which is routinely

purchased by the government from United States dairy farmers, is released specifically for distribution to poor and needy families.

At the request of New Jersey officials the Red Cross has agreed to coordinate the bulk of cheese distribution in New Jersey. Under current plans, Union County will receive approximately 3300 five-pound bricks of cheese. Each of the Red Cross Chapters in the county will then distribute the cheese to participating agencies in their areas, who in turn will distribute to eligible individuals.

According to Mr. DiGiovanni the biggest problem faced by the Red Cross in co-ordinating this program

is there simply is not enough cheese available to help all those families in need.

"We currently estimate less than half of the eligible families will receive the cheese unless the federal government makes additional cheese available to Union County residents from the government warehouses. We are especially concerned the needs of senior citizens and the unemployed should be met," he added.

He reported the cheese distribution actually began in New Jersey about three weeks ago when the government made approximately 25% of New Jersey's share available to food banks in the area. The food banks

began distributing their share and the majority of area residents thought all of the cheese was being distributed at that time.

Under current plans the cheese to be distributed by the Red Cross will be trucked into Union County on Friday, Feb. 26, and it most likely will be distributed on Monday, March 1.

The chapter chairman concluded, "Our distribution agencies, distribution sites and dates are now being confirmed. Within a week we hope to have this information available to the public. Interested residents should continue to watch local media for information or they can telephone their local Red Cross Chapter.

Board aides seek limit on sick pay

By R. R. Faszczewski

An attempt by two members of the Board of Education to have the school body's policy of granting extra sick days to employees who have used their allotments up was turned back on Feb. 9 after it was explained the sick day extension is a contract matter with the Clark Education Assn. and could not be changed until contract negotiations are opened up.

Both Dr. Peter Cummings and James E. Kahoe sought to have the policy voided after complaining extensions of the allotments beyond the initial 20 days have become too common in recent months.

However, Dr. Cummings withdrew his motion after Board member John Fitzpatrick explained the tie-in of the policy with the contract provisions.

One Board member, Edward Dreyfus, said the elimination of the policy "simply" would be wrong, because we have a

responsibility in the school system that our teachers are human beings, and not just numbers.

In other action, the school body

Approved the schedule for voting at the Tuesday, April 6, school elections to be 2 to 9 p.m. Although it was explained the voting hours had been agreed upon with other school districts in the Union County Regional High School District No. 1, Board members said next year they would attempt to have polling start earlier.

Approved the judge of election to be the person designated to open the polls at each election site, and the employment of the workers for the election. Mrs. Betty Fitzpatrick was changed from a judge to a clerk.

Dolores Jules was made a judge and Margaret Munkel was made an inspector after it was pointed out Mrs. Fitzpatrick's husband may be one of the candidates in the election.

Courts clear way for sale of school

The attorney for the Clark Board of Education, John Higgins, was informed by the New Jersey State Appellate Division on Wednesday, Feb. 10, all barriers to the consummation of the sale of the Abraham Clark School has been eliminated by a unanimous vote of the Presiding Judge Leon S. Milmed and two associate judges.

This decision affirmed the decision handed down by the Union County Superior Court Judge Milton A. Feller on Oct. 1980, which found the Clark Board of Education in the right.

The property under consideration is the former Abraham Clark Elementary School. It is located on the west side of Broadway at the corner of Prospect St., Clark, near Exit No. 135 of the Garden State Parkway.

Situated on a parcel of land of 3.2 acres, the school consists of the original two-story structure completed in 1928, a multi-purpose facility added in 1957 and a one-story classroom addition completed in 1964. Included in the school are 18 classrooms, a library, a lunchroom with a kitchen, administrative offices, a multi-purpose room and several

conference rooms.

It would appear the way has now been cleared to complete the details of transferring the ownership of the Abraham Clark School property from the Clark Board of Education to the Polish Cultural Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization located at 851 18th Ave., Irvington, reports a Board spokesman.

The original bid had been awarded on Oct. 16, 1979, in the amount of \$401,000. It is anticipated several months will transpire before all the details of the sale can be accomplished, the Board spokesman concluded.

Success, failure put parents, Board at odds

By R. R. Faszczewski

Both success and failure were major topics of discussion at the Clark Board of Education's meeting on Feb. 9.

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. John T. Farinella, reported a recent testing of eighth graders involved in the algebra program in Clark schools by the officials from the Union County Regional High School District No. 1, which includes Clark, showed only five of the 37 pupils involved in the program failed to get scores high enough to enable them to remain in the program.

He explained the median score for the township's elementary pupils was 47, while that for students involved in a similar program at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School is 48.

Those not meeting the standard in the test will be

placed back in a pre-algebra program, Dr. Farinella indicated.

On the other side of the coin, a resident, Mrs. Carine Sangiuliano, complained of rumors there was no such thing as failure in the Clark school system, and reports cards do not even contain a symbol for failure.

Mrs. Sangiuliano said this would make students think they didn't have to work as hard, since there was no chance of receiving the lowest grade.

However, Dr. Farinella said although an actual failure grade is not included on report cards, students are retained in grade level based on a judgment of their work by the teacher.

The board president, Mrs. Thelma Purdy, pointed out the progress of students was indicated to their parents at parent-teacher conferences, and

the different philosophies regarding failing grades had been discussed several times with Board committees.

However, several parents said the lack of a failing grade could have a detrimental effect on students, who must be faced with the possibility of getting those grades when they enter high school.

Dr. Farinella could see no reason for putting a stigma on elementary students by "labeling" them at such an early age.

★
Schools view \$7,000 grant from US: See Inside
★



OUTLINE FOR 'HOLIDAY' - Emilio Cannillo, the chairman and co-ordinator and Mrs. Joseph (Terry) Segreto, a member of the committee, are busy with the menu of the Sixth Annual Roman Holiday to be held at The Gran Centurions Club at 440 Madison Hill Rd., Clark. Families may be served lunch or dinner on Saturday,

Feb. 20, from 2 to 9 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 21, from noon to 7 p.m. Home-cooked Italian foods are on the menu. Proceeds will be used for the benefit of the club's scholarship program. Please telephone 382-1664 for further information, and see a story inside.

Schools stop student aid cutoff

Congress passed the Omnibus Reconciliation Act which cut benefits for those students receiving funds as Social Security survivors in August, 1981. Students had been receiving up to \$300 per month under this act.

The new law reduces benefits 25% each year, and eventually phases out all Social Security survivor benefits.

However, high school seniors can still collect these benefits if they are enrolled in a full-time, 12 credits or more, college program, before May, 1982.

Due to the recent law enacted by Congress, the Union County Regional High School District No. 1, which includes Clark, has taken the following approach: Seniors who are affected and their parents have been informed of the change in the law, and if the student is interested, local colleges have been contacted and seniors have been enrolled for this month. These seniors were either permitted to be graduated in January instead of June, if they earned sufficient credit, or they are completing their high school credit via a college course.

These steps will enable the seniors to keep their Social Security Survivor benefits for the next three years, according to a district spokesman.

A survey of the schools by the principals and guidance staff revealed 16 seniors are receiving Social Security Survivors benefits in grade 12 at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark.

Each of the students was informed of the provisions of the act and the loss of

benefits as well as the possibility of entering Union College on Feb. 1.

Students were asked to discuss the possible college attendance with their parents. After this was done, several felt they wished to avail themselves of this opportunity to continue their benefits.

Others, however, for a variety of reasons decided to remain in school and be graduated in June.

Two Johnson students have decided to enter college to maintain their benefits.

The regional district has offered a service to those seniors who are receiving the survivor benefits. The two who chose to keep their benefits are presently attending college, the district spokesman concluded.

Craftwork to be shown

The Clark Historical Society on Wednesday, Feb. 24, will feature a display of collectibles and craftwork, and show how easy it is to produce useful items.

Included in the program will be demonstrations on tin work, hooked rugs, paper money, model trains, milk bottles, ice cream molds and treasures from around the world.

The meeting will be held at the Clark Public Library at 8 p.m. There will be no admission charge, and refreshments will be served.

The N.J. Consumer Hotline Number is 648-3295