

March 18, 1982

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Clark Patriot

A Voice for All, an Echo for None

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Budget vote focuses on school organization

By R. R. Faszczewski
A total 1982-1983 school budget of \$5,622,773.50, including \$4,448,700 in taxes, was voted on in the Tuesday, April 6, School Board Election. The Board of Education was approved by a 10-2 vote of the Board of Education on March 9.

The tax figure to be raised to support the current operating budget is the only amount to be decided on at the ballot box, because there is no capital outlay and debt service is not voted on.

Asked why residents did not get a vote on debt service, Board President Mrs. Thelma Purdy explained that amount is used to pay off a debt authorized many years ago by voters when much of Clark's school construction was being anticipated.

Debt service was compared by Board Secretary Philip A. Miller, to a homeowner paying off a mortgage.

Because of changes in allocations from the state it was explained the Board was able to anticipate \$10,915 more in revenue than it had advertised after the budget was introduced.

In her statement on the budget, Mrs. Purdy said it allows the Board to keep all four schools presently in operation open helps it to maintain the same programs in the schools now and eliminates a total of 13 teaching positions.

Explaining why the school body decided to approve \$243,565 in minimum state aid it had received after it was restored last year to reduce the present tax rate, Mrs. Purdy said the Board had been informed it would not be receiving the aid and had chosen not to take a chance on what the state would do.

She added there had been a difference of opinion with Township Council as to how to return the restored money to the taxpayers and the school unit had been advised to use it as an offset against this year's tax rate.

The two Board members voting against the budget

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He criticized the proposal for asking to cut librarians because, according to Mr. Dreyfus, librarians help students properly use the tools of the school media centers, and "do not just watch the books."

He said the aide often does record keeping and handles discipline, and relieves the principal of other duties, at times acting as principal when the principal is out of the building.

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SAY AH - Mrs. Robert Bertoldo, left, and Miss Kristina Malachuk, second from left, senior dental hygiene students at Union County Technical Institute in Scotch Plains, March 4, presented a preventive oral hygiene program to the first and second grade students at the Frank K. Hanny School in Clark. Included in the program were a self-depicting a child's first dental visit, a demonstration of proper brushing and flossing techniques and various posters and material that were given to the children to take home. A discussion dealing with proper nutrition was conducted along with a question and answer period. A filmstrip was shown along with a Peanut's film about proper oral hygiene. Children participating in the program shown left to right are: Heather Suit, Mrs. Bertoldo's daughter, Michael Gerney, David Bernstein, Kristy Parise and Michele Cohen.

Aide post draws questions on duties

By R. R. Faszczewski
The employment of an administrative aide at the Clark Regional High School in Clark on March 9 by the Board of Education drew some comments from members of the public the position may not be necessary.

In response, the superintendent of schools, Dr. John T. Farnella, explained the aide position is necessary, especially around this time of the year, when principals are busy preparing for the next school year and other matters.

He said the aide often does record keeping and handles discipline, and relieves the principal of other duties, at times acting as principal when the principal is out of the building.

Upon questioning by Board members, Dr. Farnella assured them the aides, who are teachers, do not interrupt their teaching schedules to handle administrative duties.

After the discussion, the Board did unanimously approve the hiring of Alfred Smith as an administrative

aid with a stipend of \$1,050 per year, prorated from March 15 to Wednesday, June 30, of this year.

Also approved, after an executive session, was the employment of Mrs. Dorothy Rybak, who is presently the executive secretary to the Board secretary, as the executive secretary to Dr. Farnella, effective on Thursday, April 15 of this year, to June 30, 1984.

Replacing Mrs. Rybak will be Mrs. Marianne Street, who is presently a clerk and secretary to the curriculum coordinator. Her contract will run for the same time period as Mrs. Rybak's.

In other action, the Board approved the findings of the State Audit Report and its response to recommended corrective actions to be taken. The Business Committee was given the task of reviewing practices involving the use of a single signature plate to sign checks and the possible hiring of an outside consulting firm to do an initial survey

to come up with itemized property records for each school.

Also approved was the retirement of Peter Mackowski, a custodian, with commendation for 25 years of service, effective on Saturday, May 1, of this year.

Gave its permission for the participation of Dr. Farnella in an educational institute in Claremont, Calif., from July 11 to 17 of this year. An attempt to table the approval until after the Tuesday, April 6, Board of Education elections was turned down by a 7-2 vote.

Hired Mrs. Jane Penta as the Carl H. Kumpf School varsity softball coach for the present school year at a stipend of \$550.

Employed Joseph Patalano as an intramurals teacher at the Valley Road School for the spring at \$7 per hour worked, not to exceed \$140.

Approved the attendance of David M. Hart, a principal, at the Institute of the National Assn. of Secondary School Principals in Gainesville, Fla.

\$226,448 is sought by Regional

An application for a total of \$226,448 in federal funds for special education was approved on March 2 by the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education, which governs Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark.

The total includes \$25,450 for training and the neurologically impaired, \$15,000 for the audiotaped, \$51,250 for the trainable mentally retarded and \$14,848 for learning resource centers at Gov. Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights.

In other action, the Board approved the Johnson senior class trip to Mount Airy Lodge in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

Gave Catherine Maravetz of Kean College, a chemistry major, and Dean Klutkowski of Montclair State College, a physical education major, permission to student-teach this spring at the township school.

Hired Paul Burkhardt and Arlene Blaumeister as the spring intramurals coaches. Emmalyne Williams and Julia McCarthy as the spring intramurals aides and Patricia McDonald as the assistant girls track coach, all at the Clark school.

Awarded a \$20,000 contract for the purchase of a nine-passenger busette for transportation of the handicapped to Byram Bus Sales.

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TURNING UP BUSINESS - The Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School Board and Board Boosters of Clark will sponsor a flea market on Saturday, March 20, from a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Johnson cafeteria. Proceeds

Regional school-tax decrease could give Clark most benefit

In spite of a 5.8% increase in the 1982-1983 budget for the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education, which governs the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, township residents could experience the largest tax decrease in the district, 13 points, it was pointed out at the public hearing on the budget on March 2.

The reason for the tax decrease, which could mean taxes on a home assessed at \$50,000 could drop \$65 if the budget is approved on Tuesday, April 6, is the Board decided to use \$996,653 it received in state equalization aid it hadn't anticipated last year to reduce taxes for 1982-1983.

The total \$20,521,049 tab would reduce overall district taxes by \$140,410. Last year's budget was \$19,388,431.

At the beginning of last year, Gov. Brendan T. Byrne had sought the elimination of some of the equalization aid to wealthier school districts, and the regional board had voted not to anticipate the aid in its 1981-1982 budget.

However, the aid was restored by the State Legislature later in the year, and that is what the regional body is using to offset the tax levy for 1982-1983.

These extra funds, together with the relatively minor budget increase would lower taxes in three of the six municipalities sending students to the four regional high schools. The other three communities would show only small tax hikes.

According to the Board secretary, Harold D. Butte, the budget is within the state-mandated 7.6% lid of

spending increases. This 1982-1983 "CAP" allowed the Board to increase the budget by \$1,093,742.

The secretary noted the biggest budgetary increase is for teacher salaries, which rose to \$492,332 from \$6,817,668 to \$7,310,000 because of the signing of a new teacher contract.

A warning of the possible loss of state aid and a reduction in federal aid was issued by the Superintendent of Schools Dr. Donald Merachnik.

If the aid is cut back, the Board will either have to cut programs and services or ask voters to approve a tax increase to make up for the loss.

The superintendent also pointed out a decline of 277 students anticipated for next year will result in the elimination of eight

teachers and certain courses. Student participation in classes to be offered in all schools via television could make up for the loss in courses, thanks to the installation of a television instruction system at Gov. Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights, it was pointed out.

The Board members also approved a District Spring Softball Clinic, which was held after school this past Tuesday at Gov. Livingston for softball players from all four schools and their coaches.

Six students from the Clark school and their instructor, Jack Ford, were given permission to participate in the State Distributive Education Conference, to be held at Great Gorge from Monday to Wednesday, March 22 to 24.

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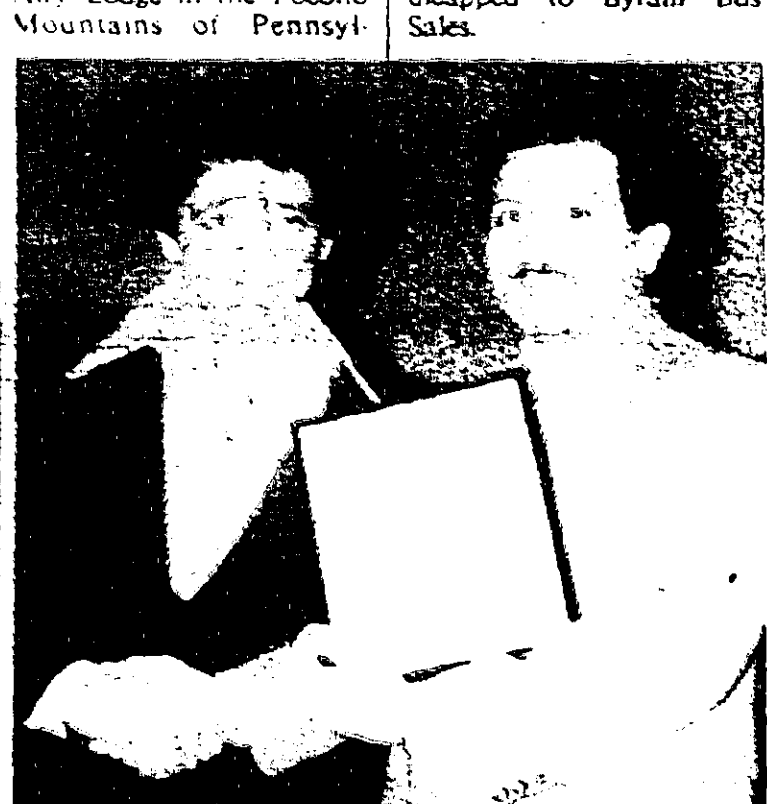
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DOESY DO - "Hello Dolly" will be presented by students at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark on Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27, at 8 p.m. Rehearsing, shown, left to right, are: Eric Seltzer, playing the role of Horace Vandergelder; Dolly, performed by Sally Shamy; Jackie Kisko as Minnie Fay; Irene Malloy, played by Eileen Richter; Paul Josel in the role of Cornelius Hackl; and Barnaby Tucker played by Tony Paiva. The musical director and producer is Evelyn Bloeske, and Michael Vogel is the stage director. Lori Lahotsky is the student stage manager. Tickets are priced at \$3 and can be purchased at the door. (Please see story inside.)



ABOVE AND BEYOND CALL - David Toma of Clark is shown, left, receiving a plaque from Clark Councilman-at-Large George Sanguiniano awarded by his work with the youth of the township. The award was presented at the inaugural dinner dance for 1982 officers of the Gran Centurions Club of Clark. Mr. Toma was the guest speaker at the dinner.

Clark Board changes meeting

The second March meeting of the Clark Board of Education, scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, has been cancelled.

The first April meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, has been cancelled and rescheduled for Monday, April 12.

The meeting will be held in the Administration Building on Schindler Rd. at 8 p.m., reports Philip A. Miller, the Board secretary.

Candidates given release deadline

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 6.

The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will publish their pre-election advance issues on Thursday, April 1.

All biographies and/or pictures of candidates which they would like to see appear in the advance issues should be in the

hands of the editor at 1326 Lawrence St., Rahway, N.J. 07065 NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 25.

Any charges against opponents must be submitted, with the accompanying affidavits, NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 18, so they can be answered before the election advance issues.