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School plans narrowed to two for more study

By R. R. Faszczewski

From the total of 13 different school reorganization plans presented to it last fall, the township Board of Education Aug. 10 decided to narrow further study to just two plans.

The head of a school reorganization study committee formed last April, Board member, Thomas Faria, outlined for his fellow Board members the eight alternative plans the committee has been studying since it was formed.

Mr. Faria explained the committee, with the help of school staff members, the superintendent of schools and the school business administrator, had narrowed the number of plans down with the goal of keeping all four presently-operating schools, Valley Road, Frank K. Hehnly, Charles H. Brewer and Carl H. Kumpf, open.

Also on the committee are Board members, Edward Dreyfus and James E. Kehoe.

The plans, as presented by Mr. Faria are: No. 1, keep the schools the same as they are, Valley Road and Hehnly, kindergarten to fifth grade; Kumpf, kindergarten to eighth grade; Brewer, sixth to eighth grade; No. 2, kindergarten to fifth grade, Valley Road and Hehnly, seventh and eighth grade, Kumpf; first to sixth grade, Brewer; No. 3, kindergarten to fifth grade, Valley Road and Hehnly; kindergarten to sixth grade, Kumpf; seventh and eighth grade, Brewer; No. 4, Valley Road, Hehnly and Kumpf, kindergarten to sixth grade; Brewer, seventh and eighth grade; No. 5, Valley Road, Hehnly and Brewer, kindergarten to fifth grade; Kumpf, sixth to eighth grade; No. 6, Valley Road, Hehnly and Kumpf, kindergarten to fifth grade; Brewer, sixth to eighth grade; No. 7, Valley Road and Hehnly, kindergarten to fourth grade; Kumpf, fifth and sixth grade; Brewer, seventh and eighth grade, and No. 8, Valley Road and Hehnly, kindergarten to fourth grade; Brewer, fifth and sixth grade; Kumpf, seventh and eighth grade.

All the plans except No. 6 could be placed in service for the 1983-1984 school year, according to Mr. Faria.

He said that plan would have to wait until the 1984-1985 school year to be implemented because it would not be possible until that time due to the large amount of enrollment involved.

The committee chairman then outlined the pros and cons for each plan, which involved considerations of proximity to Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School, the program changes planned and the development of the middle school concept in the township.

It was pointed out by Mr. Faria plans Nos. 5 and 6 were the two considered for further study because of the advantages of the middle-school concept, staffing considerations and cost factors.

However, Mr. Kehoe, who had presented a plan for all schools but Brewer to become kindergarten-to-sixth-grade facilities, with Brewer housing seventh and eighth graders, last fall, asked that plan No. 4 be included for further study because it was the only one which would give the Board a chance to make a fair economic evaluation of proposed changes, and did not "move around the same checkers into different positions."

He also said it would help put into place the mechanism to enhance basic-skills instruction in the lower grades, and give computer courses and language arts a better chance of being introduced successfully.

Mr. Dreyfus disagreed, saying there was much strength in the middle-school concept, with a single middle school providing the impetus for sixth graders to participate, in addition to expanded academic programs, with seventh and eighth graders in "things which would challenge them."

Board president, Eileen Mezzo, said there were advantages to having both Kumpf and Brewer as middle schools. She did, however, favor Kumpf because it is the newest facility and has better storage facilities and more space. She could see the only advantages of Brewer being its better gymnasium and its proximity to the high school.

In another part of the report, Mr. Faria noted the committee recommended relocating the Board's administration offices from Schindler Rd. to one of the four schools no later than one year after the district reorganization.

Which school would depend on the re-organization plan ultimately decided upon.

The Board will hold a special meeting on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the administration offices to again discuss the reorganization alternatives.

In other action, Board members voted to declare three rooms in the Hehnly School as surplus property, which could possibly lead to their being rented to the Union County Educational Services Commission, according to Mrs. Mezzo.

ROARING SUCCESS – The members of the Clark Bobcats Softball Team, shown, left to right, after a recent awards ceremony in the township are: Front row, Sue Peters, Cari Danco, Debbie DeFilippo, Donna Sherman and Leslie Harnett; second row, Sue Slowey, Donna Miller, Jayne Heinze, Maureen Kennedy and Carl Pierdinock; third row, Natalie Migliaro, Kelly Richter, Dana DeSanto, Debbie Heller, Kathy Wolfram and Megan McCutcheon, back row, Coaches, Anthony Migliaro and Vincent Pierdinock and Tom Dunn, the manager. (Please see other pictures inside.)

Rent-control repeal to be decided Aug. 30

By R. R. Faszczewski

An issue which has caused controversy for over two years in the township came a step closer to resolution on Monday when the Township Council voted unanimously to hold a special meeting on Monday, Aug. 30, at 8 p.m. in the Council chambers of the municipal building to deal specifically with the possible repeal of rent control.

Clark's rent-leveling law, which has been on the books since the 1970's, was amended last fall to boost the yearly rent increases landlords were allowed to charge tenants from 3% to 7 to 8%, depending on whether utilities were furnished by the landlord or not.

The members of the Clark Tenants Assn. later filed suit against the Governing Body, claiming the amended rent law has been unfairly adopted, against the provisions of the so-called state "Sunshine Law" or "Open Public Meetings Act."

That suit was subsequently dropped by the tenants' group before it came to trial in Superior Court, earlier that year.

At the same time the tenants' suit had begun, some members of the Clark Taxpayers Coalition and other residents had started collecting signatures on petitions to place a referendum so residents could vote on whether or not the law should stay.

That drive [illegible] earlier this year [illegible] an attempt to repeal [illegible] control failed in the [illegible]

Early this [illegible] which have been said contained over 1,000 signatures–about 500 more than needed to put the rent-control issue to a vote–were presented to the Township Clerk's Office.

In the absence of Township Clerk Edward R. Padusniak, the Assistant Township Clerk Katherine Clancy, at first authenticated 2,527 of the signatures submitted by Aug. 4 to be legitimate. A supplemental petition and authentication left the total on Aug. 6 at 2,836, and the final tally–after 14 signatures were disqualified for being written in pencil–amounted to 2,822.

A suit was started in Superior Court on Aug. 10 by the petitioners challenging the findings of Mrs. Clancy, and asking the councilmen to call a special meeting to deal with the issue. Judge Edward McGrath ruled he had no jurisdiction in the matter.

A subsequent suit filed by the tenants' group on Monday, again challenging the count on the grounds more signatures should have been eliminated, and seeking a restraining order to prevent the Governing Body from acting on the ordinance, was dismissed by Judge McGrath on the same grounds as the action above.

An official reading of the amended certification at Monday's Council meeting, according to the Township Attorney Joseph J. Triarsi, in effect, served as the introduction of an ordinance repealing the rent control law.

According to Mr. Triarsi, this gives the councilmen three options at the Aug. 30 meeting: They can adopt the ordinance and repeal rent control; they can defeat the ordinance, and leave it up to the voters to decide–thus placing the issue on a binding referendum in time for the Tuesday, Nov. 2, General Election this year, or they can table the ordinance–thus leaving any action until the Monday, Sept. 20, session, and causing the question to be placed either on a special election ballot or to be decided at the November, 1983, General Election.

One of the petition-drive leaders, John Dillon of Lake Ave., told the councilmen they would be doing the taxpayers and themselves a service by repealing rent control on Aug. 30.

Mr. Dillon added both political parties, if they did otherwise, "would be hanging an albatross around the neck of your candidates" by forcing them to confront the issue at the elections for ward councilmen in November.

Although Mr. Dillon claimed about 40% of the registered voters had actually signed petitions for the referendum, despite the disqualifications, the president of the Clark Tenants Assn., Sandford Krasky of 101 Gibson Blvd., disagreed. He said it was more like 25 to 30% of the voters registered to cast ballots in the last General Election.

Mr. Krasky added the homeowners don't support the tenants with their taxes, and the tenants pay taxes without getting the tax rebates homeowners and landlords get. He called for a special election so voters could decide on rent control as a single issue.

Another resident, George Amoruso of 136 Fedder Rd., said the tenants should not be isolated from the same inflation the homeowners have "had to suffer through. He added if landlords do not make what they consider a fair profit they may seek hardship relief–and thus the homeowners are forced to make up for any taxes the township doesn't get if the relief is granted.

Brewer gridders defeat Kumpfers

Clark's Charles H. Brewer School Playground Football Team, currently 3-0, clinched at least a tie for the inter-playground championship. The team's closest game so far was a 42-21 victory over the Carl H. Kumpf School Playground. In that game Jamie De Roze provided most of the offense by scoring four touchdowns. Leo Urso tallied Brewer's other two scores. The other team members included Henry Falleon, Steve Washington, Steve Biss, Joe Colombo, Jerry McDade, Shawn McGaha, David Slater and Mark Feibush.

* * *

A foul-shooting tournament was held recently at the Brewer Playground, and Pat Slowey emerged the champion, as he canned five out of 10 free throws. Peter Souris finished second, and John Chirico won a four-way playoff to capture third.

Early Deadlines: See Inside

Regional revises basic-skills budget

The Union County Regional High School District No. 1, Board of Education, which includes Clark, Aug. 3 approved a revised budget for its Basic Skills-Improvement Program.

In accordance with state Dept. of Education regulations and because of revised allocations for funding being provided to the district, the budget figures submitted were $83,033 for Chapter 1 and $55,550 for state compensatory education.

Board members also voted to submit an application to the state for adult, continuing and community education funding totaling $64,600. Of the total, $12,000 would pay for an adult-education director, $26,600 for high school equivalency, $22,000 for adult basic education and $4,000 for evening schools for the foreign born.

* * *

The school body, in other action:

–Appointed Peter Sachenski as maintenance foreman at the annual salary of $19,000 for 1982-1983, effective Aug. 4 of this year.

–Gave its approval for the Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School Football Team of Clark and its coaches to participate in a football camp at Camp Green Lane in Landsdale, Pa., from Tuesday to Sunday, Aug. 31 to Sept. 4.

–Okayed a one-day Basic Skills Improvement Workshop for 13 staff members to be held on Thursday, Sept. 2, to discuss the implementation of instruction materials developed this summer which will be used in all basic-skills-improvement instruction for students.

–Accepted the resignation of Charles Drewes as a teacher-supervisor in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act-funded summer work-experience program.

–Approved the transfer of Clementine Tabor from Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield to Johnson.

–Accepted the resignation of Mrs. Diane Zdanowski as a Spanish teacher, and changed Mrs. Mary Ann Ferrante from a part-time to a full-time teacher to take her place, at a 1982 salary of $13,625, effective on Wednesday, Sept. 1, and a further adjustment when the 1982-1983 salary guide is established. Mrs. Ferrante will be transferred from the Clark school to Gov. Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights.

–Approved Catherine Maraucz of Kean College as a student teacher in chemistry at the township school from Wednesday, Sept. 8, of this year, to Thursday, Dec. 23, of this year.

CHAMPIONSHIP STYLE – Clark's Frank K. Hehnly School Playground Team had a winning kickball season. It's record was three wins and one loss. The players shown, left to right, are: Bottom row, Michael Krzoulis, David Flammia and Jeff Gellin; top row, Chad Williams, Mark Wellendt and Chris Tierney.

FLYING THEIR CRAFT – Clark's Frank K. Hehnly School recreation program offers arts and crafts each day. The children shown are: Lisa Goodman, bottom left, Robin Frank, bottom center, and Karen Comacho. The head teacher is Mrs. Jane Perrta, top center.

Public Service offers shares to public

Public Service Electric and Gas Co. on Aug. 12 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission a registration statement for the sale of four million shares of common stock.

The company expects to sell the shares on Tuesday, Aug. 24, to Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Inc. and Kidder, Peabody and Co., Inc. who will refoffer the shares to the public.

Proceeds from the sale of the shares will be used for the payment of short-term debt incurred primarily in the company's construction program.

Mackie Post marks 10 years

Members of the James L. Mackey Post No. 499 of the American Legion of Rahway Aug. 8 celebrated the post's 10th anniversary at the post home.

Present were members of the Union County American Legion who had helped Post No. 499 get activated and obtained charter.

It was 10 years ago when Charles Brame and 15 others met with the county delegates in a garage where Post No. 499 was reactivated. Today it is located on Main St., Rahway, in the old firehouse, which members have been renovating for the past two years. Membership has grown to the present 146.

Paul Konic from Rahway Post No. 5 served as master of ceremonies on Aug. 8. National executive committeeman, Warren Davies, and Douglas Barrow, department executive committeeman, were the main speakers. Also present were the Union County commander, Anthony Polari, and senior vice commander, Joseph Rybak.

The following charter members received 10-year certificates from post commander, Wilmer Toy; William Boatwright, Mr. Brame, Thomas Brown, Andrew and Jutson Bryant, James Cunningham, Raymond Farrar, Andrew Harris, James Jeter, James Jones, Albert Snowden, Mark Smallwood, Vernon Ward, Samuel Hayes and Willis Rodgers.

Refreshments were served by members of the Ladies Auxiliary following the consolidation of the service, reports Mr. Rybak.

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Larger hospital zone rejected by Council

By R. E. Fanciovecki

A proposal to expand the hospital zone in the heart of Rahway Hospital to include the entire city block bounded by Maehner and Jefferson Aves., Stone St. and Rahway Hospital was rejected Aug. 9 by the City Council before its introduction and first reading.

Residents on the south side of Transitt Pl. where the hospital owns some property, and may be planning to build a parking lot, appeared before the Governing Body to oppose the change.

They had said if the hospital was given permission to expand its zone without having to go before the Planning Board for a variance the residents would lose their right to object to future hospital projects in the future before the zoning body.

Members of Trustee Pl. were Kochinski, said on Aug. 9 he hoped to keep the south side of Transitt Pl. residential. He cited the increased traffic and parking problems the hospital zone as being detrimental to the area and children playing on the street.

Mr. Kochinski urged the councilmen to let the residents speak, and not "railroad" the ordinance.

However, in a statement he had read at the beginning of the meeting, John Yoder, the president of the Hospital Board of Trustees, said he didn't want the hospital zone near to residential homes.

Mr. Yoder added the hospital had referred its request first to the Planning Board then to the City Council "because we have been given a chance to be heard."

He said also said major improvements to the hospital were anticipated, and recognizing the hospital zone as being the exact city block, and with the community citizen's expansion planning committee, Councilwoman-at-Large Irene Rotolo replied, however, she feared the hospital may try to do anything it wanted for the sake of expanding.

She added the hospital's parking plans would create more traffic problems, and would sympathize with the residents, but felt the entire city should be considered. She voted in the beginning of the meeting against the hospital's request for the expanded hospital zone.

However, the motion must later changed his mind, and voted for the ordinance because of the feelings of the residents.

Another Trustee Pl. resident, Howard Garman of Jefferson Ave. said during the week side of the street wouldn't affect you because you live on the other side.

He cited a law suit that around 1976 when residents had disputed the hospital's attempt to put up a parking lot on property in the residential zone, saying zoning had been restricted to the area to provide for the future.

However, the attorney for the hospital, Lee Kahn said the hospital's proposal presented to the Council about the 1976 suit.

Mr. Kahn said the suit had been rejected by Superior Court. He also noted city regulations prohibited the same suit from to come before the Planning Board if the zone was co-zoned.

This body, the attorney said, had approved the ordinance because of the feelings of the residents.

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JOB WELL DONE – Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich (left) presents a plaque to Rahway Assemblyman Raymond Lesniak, who represents Rahway and George Franklin of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, right. (Please see story on page 3.)

Governor cites Merck for Phase III plan

Gov. Thomas H. Kean on Aug. 6 signed a proclamation commending Merck Sharp & Dohme of Rahway, for its commitment to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

The document cites Merck for voluntary efforts to provide affirmative action programs and equal employment opportunity to all 16,000 of its employees in the United States, including 3,500 in the company's New Jersey headquarters in Rahway.

It was presented to John J. Horan, the chairman and the chief executive officer, and Dr. B. Lawrence Bianchi, the director of equal employment opportunity for the Rahway, for its commitment to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

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