

Comets blaze  
over Crusaders:  
See Inside

# Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

VOL. 17 NO. 40

CLARK, NEW JERSEY, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1983

USPS 115-760

20 CENTS

## Board approves administrators' salaries, but lowers minimums to previous levels

By R. R. Faszczewski  
Administrative salary guides for 1982-1983 and 1983-1984 were approved by the Board of Education on Sept. 27—but only after Board members voted 5-4 to cut the minimum salary ranges proposed by the Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farinella for principals, the curriculum co-ordinator, the director of special services and the Board secretary/school business administrator by \$2,000 each—thus putting the minimums for the present school year back to the same level as those for the previous school year.

Dr. Farinella, stating that the people now holding the above positions were already at the maximum salaries for each post, said he had recommended the increase in the cellar amount at each level because it would allow more flexibility in negotiations for anyone new coming in to fill one of the positions, and his suggested figures were more in line with reality.

The ranges suggested by Dr. Farinella, with the 1982-1983 salary first and the 1983-1984 salary second, were: Principal, \$28,000 to \$39,706 and \$30,000 to \$43,478; curriculum co-ordinator, \$24,000 to \$33,969 and \$26,000 to \$37,163; director of special services, same range as curriculum co-ordinator, and Board secretary/school business administrator, \$26,000 to \$35,040 and \$28,000 to \$38,369.

Figures finally adopted, however, differed in the fact the first figure for 1983-1984 in each category was lowered to the same amount as that outlined for 1982-1983. Board member, Edward Dreyfus, said he could see no reason to change the minimum figures for 1983-1984 from those for 1982-1983.

However, when Board member, F. Donald Paris, asked the superintendent how Clark's ranges compared to those in other comparable districts he was told the township's salaries were lower.

Declaring lower minimums would give the district more range for negotiations, Board member, Marie Soyka, said a statement by Dr. Farinella that some teachers were making more than the principals they served under was not a good argument for raising the minimums because the district had teachers staying in it long enough to accumulate the higher salaries.

However, Board vice president, Thomas Faria, said semi-realistic salary ranges were of no benefit to anyone.

The motion to keep the 1982-1983 minimums was introduced by Board member, James E. Kehoe, and seconded by Mrs. Soyka. Voting with them to keep the minimums as they were in 1982-1983 were Mr. Dreyfus, Mr. Paris and John Fitzpatrick.

Casting negative ballots were Michael Dudek, Mrs. Thelma Purdy, Mr. Faria and Board president, Mrs. Eileen Mezzo.

The same voting patterns were followed in the vote on the overall motion. Also approved by Board members were district and Board goals for the 1983-1984 school year.

The superintendent explained the school body goals had been drawn up incorporating suggestions made by certain Board members.

Explaining a goal she had suggested, "to review and assess the articulation and co-ordination focusing on text, materials and any other factors relevant to the education process among the schools in Clark," Mrs. Soyka said her purpose was to develop more co-ordination with the township's Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School.

Citing the fact that other districts were extending their school years beyond 180 days, Mr. Kehoe said he had suggested a "study of that possibility in Clark, especially since new courses such as language had been introduced and required more time to teach, and his suggestions were in line with recent federal and state educational reform proposals.

Mrs. Purdy, however, said she didn't think this should be adopted as a goal per se, but the school system should try to make itself more effective within the present parameters.

Mr. Kehoe replied as a minimum the school district should cut down on half-day sessions used exclusively for in-service workshops.

Another suggested goal, to study and evaluate the locale of the Board office and the efficient use of the Administration Building or disposal of the building, was objected to by Mrs. Purdy because she said the school body should "let the dust settle" on recent proposals for the use of school buildings before proceeding with the goal.

Mrs. Purdy abstained on the approval of the entire set of goals, while all of the other eight Board members voted in the affirmative.

A number of transfers from surplus into various accounts in the 1983-1984 budget were approved.

One of the major reasons for the transfers, according to Board Secretary Philip A. Miller, was the education body had been passing resolutions without having the funding in the budget for the projects approved.

Explaining a \$24,500 figure for the purchase of a new school bus, Mr. Miller said a new state law made it necessary to replace one of the district's buses or be faced with contracting out the particular route served by the bus.

He added the purchase price of the bus would be reimbursed by the state 90% within two years of the purchase.

Mr. Kehoe objected to one item—the fact the school system had to pay for the state-mandated family life education program without state funding.

The budget transfers were adopted unanimously.

A motion to approve the sale of surplus school materials—including two pianos, to St. Agnes School of Clark was tabled until the Board's next meeting because school body members said a definite policy should be established about disposing of surplus property.

Although Mr. Miller had the chance to obtain the items, although Mr. Miller said St. Agnes School had approached the public school system about the property about to be disposed of, Mr. Kehoe said all organizations should be given the chance to participate, and Mrs. Purdy said the school district should at least make the gesture of letting other organizations know about the rest of the property it had to dispose of.

Mrs. Mezzo agreed, saying the Board had never really discussed a disposal policy before.

However, Mr. Dudek noted all the groups had the chance to ask about the items when the Charles H. Brewer School closed, and there were six more pianos left for any group that wanted them.

Board members also rescheduled their second meeting for this month from Tuesday, Oct. 25, to Monday, Oct. 24, because of a conflict with the Annual School Board Administrators/Business Officials Workshop.

A resident of Acken Dr. wanted to know why pupils on his street could not be driven to Frank K. Hehly School by bus when the homes on that street were the same distance from the school as those on Skyline Dr., whose students are transported.

Although Mrs. Mezzo replied Mr. Miller had the distance measured from the two streets to the school and found Acken Dr. to be a shorter distance—falling within the Board's guidelines for not providing transportation—she did say Mr. Miller would meet with the parent so they could study the measuring of the distance together.

## Area's top historian bids adieu

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is an excerpt from "The History of Clark, N. J.," by Brian P. Toal. It was submitted to The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot following the death on Friday, Sept. 23, of Edward S. Ayers of Clark.

To tell the story of Edward Smithson Ayers is to recount the life of one of Clark's most distinguished citizens. He was a patriot, historian, husband and businessman—a king of civic-minded people who have dedicated their lives to benefit others of their community. Mr. Ayers was one of those rare people who was born of illustrious parentage, and who stamps the family execution with yet another generation of achievement. An example of the forebear family heritage can be seen in his grandfather, John Roliford Ayers (1808-1888), who was the first elected senator from Union County in 1857.

The son of Ira Campbell Ayers (1845-1912) and Mrs. Amiea Decamp Ayers, Edward S. Ayers was born in Rahway, at 57 Hamilton St. on Jan. 19, 1893. He attended public schools for his education, one of which was the Franklin School of Rahway. He then attended the first Rahway High School and was a member of its graduation class of 1912. He then attended Rutgers University.

After a period of time, Mr. Ayers' father died which resulted in his removal from college. His older brothers, Ira C. Ayers, Jr. and John R. Ayers (1895-1977) were drafted into service for World War I. This only left one male to run the family business, which was the famous Marsh Saw Mills of Rahway. It was located on Elizabeth Ave. Edward

Ayers continued to run the mill until he was drafted for service, but a plea from his mother to prevent him from entering due to the fact he was the last male of the family delayed his induction. When he finally had to report for duty the war had ended.

In a short period of time Edward Ayers returned to his duties of running the mill which the family would later sell. After it was sold he received a job as a business advisor for the Quinsey Co., of New York. A position he held until 1931.

Mr. Ayers' life style continued in his own fashion. Examples of this style of life are not historically recorded and are left to the tables of time. He basically said time was a pattern of unreality until the year 1931, when his dear brother, John, was stricken with pneumonia. It seems Mr. Ayers put in a plea to God for John's recovery—for if his brother recovered he would dedicate his life to aid his fellow man and the efforts of almighty God.

He then became affiliated with the Young Men's Christian Assn. Fellowship on Jan. 19, 1893. He attended public schools for his education, one of which was the Franklin School of Rahway. He then attended the first Rahway High School and was a member of its graduation class of 1912. He then attended Rutgers University.

After a period of time, Mr. Ayers' father died which resulted in his removal from college. His older brothers, Ira C. Ayers, Jr. and John R. Ayers (1895-1977) were drafted into service for World War I. This only left one male to run the family business, which was the famous Marsh Saw Mills of Rahway. It was located on Elizabeth Ave. Edward

On Feb. 10, 1934 Mr. Ayers married Helen Mintell (1903-1965). Once married, he and his wife moved to the newly-developing Clark. They purchased a home on Wendall Pl., No. 19. This occurred in 1938.

It is at this point the Ayers name becomes a trademark to the residents of Clark. After the initial settling in their new home, the Ayers' quickly became active in the community affairs of the township.

In 1941, Mr. Ayers initiated a committee to stop the federal government from building a housing



Edward S. Ayers

project to house shipyard workers in Clark. It was he who called for making the project into a separate township and calling it Winfield Park.

Mr. Ayers then pushed for the Legislature to change the form of government in Clark from the committee type to the commission type. He also established the state of candidates of the new commission government.

In the latter part of 1945 Mr. Ayers established another committee to see the new state highway No. 4, now known as The Garden State Parkway, which was to run through the township, in order to benefit the township's residents.

It seems the highway commission wanted to run the highway down Madison Hill Rd. near the Rahway border and through the two cemeteries on the Madison Hill Rd. curve. But Mr. Ayers established enough support to have the Commission alter its plan to its present sight. In the late 1940's he continued his civic-minded efforts by creating Clark's first Boy Scout Troop, No. 44.

On Jan. 1, 1961 Mr. Ayers retired after 30 years of service to the Remington Rand Co., where he had

been a sales representative of Methods Engineer and Office Manager. He began his retirement in order to put all his efforts into the creation of the first Public Library of Clark.

Mr. Ayers was the creator and the founder of Clark's first Library. He developed the committee of the Friends of the Library and went on to become the library's president of the Board of Trustees, and served as president for 12 years. He was a member of that board for over 20 years.

After establishing the library, he became chairman of Clark's Centennial Celebration. He organized all of the celebrations and major events that marked Clark's 100th birthday in 1964.

Also in that same year, Mr. Ayers became a noted historian of the township. This occurred when he published "The Historical Review of the Township of Clark, New Jersey." Even though it may seem outdated now, it was the first documented reference text on Clark ever published.

The efforts of Ed Ayers were not limited by his past actions. In 1965, after his wife, Helen, died of cancer, he said he must do something as a memorial to his late wife. He went on to establish the Clark Senior Citizens Club in 1969 and the Clark Historical Society in 1969.

In 1966, the township honored Mr. Ayers by naming a street after him since he had no direct descendants. The street is named Ayers La. It is located off Raritan Rd., near Armstrong Dr.

In 1973, Mr. Ayers discovered the 593 Madison Hill Rd. House. It would later become the Dr. William Robinson plantation and home of the Clark Historical Society. In 1976,

Mr. Ayers became the co-chairman of the Clark Bicentennial Committee.

Due to Mr. Ayers' many years of service and dedication to the citizens of Clark, he would receive countless awards and elements of recognition. Some examples of these prestigious awards can be traced to 1973, when at age 80, he received a Papal Blessing from Pope Paul VI. Also that year, he was named citizen of the year by the State of New Jersey Library Assn. and also by the Department of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars at their annual convention. There is a long list of awards, each well deserved.

In Mr. Ayers' final years he continued his community involvement when he became campaign manager for Republican Fourth Ward Township Council candidate, Joseph E. Alachi, in 1980.

On Feb. 6, 1983, the Clark Kiwanis honored Mr. Ayers with a testimonial 90th birthday luncheon where his many years of service to the township were honored. All proceeds from the luncheon were given to the Clark Public Library in Mr. Ayers' name.

The name Edward Ayers is a tradition to the residents of Clark. He was a man of countless endeavors, who gave hours of dedication to the sole purpose of the benefits of others. In his efforts he implemented a process—the creation of Clark as we know it today. The Ayers mark is basically all around for us to see and appreciate.

Edward Ayers, in his later years, lived quietly at his home at 19 Wendell Pl. Frequent ill health limited him from becoming active in township affairs. He would die on Sept. 23, 1983.

He will be interred in Rahway Cemetery in Rahway to join his wife and his famous ancestors, which will bring a conclusion to the Ayers name and tradition of Clark-Rahway.

Clark Unico to journey to Caesar's  
Clark Unico will sponsor a bus trip to Atlantic City to Caesar's Hotel and Casino on Saturday, Oct. 22. The bus will leave Clark at 5:30 p.m. and return to Clark six hours from its arrival in Atlantic City. All passengers will be given \$10 in cash and a \$5 return-trip credit slip. The price for the trip will be \$15.

Unico is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to helping needy families and the handicapped and awarding scholarships to deserving youngsters in the area. Please telephone for reservations now—a limited amount of seats is available. No seats will be held without payment. Telephone George at 381-3592, Carene at 574-9057 or Tony at 382-3108.

Clark mayor to be interviewed by editor

The mayor of Clark, Bernard G. Yarusavage, will be interviewed by R. R. Faszczewski, the managing editor of The Clark Patriot, on the "Meet the Mayors" program on WOR television, channel No. 9, at 10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13.

The program will be rebroadcast on Monday, Oct. 17, at 8 a.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 22, at 8:30 a.m.



**NEW 'OLD GLORY'** - On the evening of Sept. 22 an American Flag was presented to Clark Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage, right, for his office in the Clark Township Municipal Building by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Clark Post No. 7363. Doing the presentation are: Christina Morrell, left, Americanism chairwoman, and Rita Tolo, center, the president of the Ladies Auxiliary.



**SUPER SCHOLARS** - Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School of Clark National Merit Scholarship semifinalists, Augustine Kim, left, and Joseph Ting, right, are congratulated by Assistant Principal David Carl. The Johnson students are among 536 New Jersey seniors awarded this distinction and will continue in the 1984 competition for Merit Scholarships.