

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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Brozick kicks
Clark to win:
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Kumpf parents demand challenge for students

By R. R. Faszezewski
Parents of several youngsters in the mathematics programs in the township's Carl H. Kumpf School told the Board of Education on Nov. 22 their children were complaining of not being challenged enough in class and being bored, especially those students not in the accelerated program.

One of the parents, Catherine Dashevsky of 25 Orchard St., said she needed more information on how the various levels of mathematics classes were grouped and with the composite scores in the recently reported results from the Iowa Test of Basic Skills averaging over the 90th percentile she couldn't see why more students were not in the accelerated group.

Both Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farnella and the Board vice president, Thomas Faria, told Mrs. Dashevsky the 90th percentile ranking on the Iowa test could not be considered an average score

for a particular grade, but was only a "norm" ranking based on a comparison to a specific grouping of students in a grade within a statistical study group out of about 200,000 students in the nation as a whole. However, another parent, Anthony Cannone of Fairview Dr., said the students in the upper echelons of the average mathematics classes were not being challenged in all areas.

He said he had the impression that grades were not ranked as importantly as scores on the Iowa tests in determining which students were to go into the accelerated program and disputed this criteria.

A third parent, Elaine Marrano of Clark Dr., said her daughter had scored in the middle range in the Iowa tests and therefore had been placed in an average mathematics group instead of the accelerated group and was complaining of being bored.

Dismayed by a demonstration she had seen during American Education Week in her daughter's school in which the "average" students were doing very elementary mathematics, Mrs. Marrano urged the school officials to press for more algebra and pre-algebra courses besides the accelerated one.

The parent's comments were in response to a presentation given earlier in the meeting by David Hart, the principal of the Kumpf School.

Mr. Hart explained those to be placed in the accelerated or advanced placement-mathematics classes were identified as early as fifth grade.

He added the accelerated program in the seventh grade consists of a year of seventh-grade and a year of eighth-grade mathematics compressed into a single year of study. He pointed out in the seventh grade at present there is one accelerated group, one sub-

celerated group and six regular mathematics classes. Mr. Hart said one of the main aims of the administration is to try for a continuous progress program in mathematics in which students are asked individually to meet all their requirements in a particular area in a year rather than having the whole class advance only as far as it can in a particular year.

Board president, Mrs. Eileen Mezzo, told parents their concerns about the program would be brought up at a management team meeting in which the Board members are to meet with school administrators to discuss curriculum problems, on Monday, Dec. 5. Although she said the members of the public are not allowed to comment at the sessions, she did invite parents to come to listen to the exchange of ideas.

Reporting on a letter received on June 1 from then-acting county superintendent of schools, Dr. Virginia L. Brinson, Dr. Farnella said the Clark schools had been commended for bringing about a better student-teacher ratio with the re-organization of the school system this year. Responding to doubts expressed by a Board member, James E. Kelso, who said the real test of the students' abilities would come when they were tested by high school personnel in the ninth grade, Dr. Farnella said the Iowa test validity had been proven over and over again.

In other action, the school body:

- Approved block-grant adjustments to reflect a \$531.96 increase in aid to the district for private schools and a \$168.28 increase for public schools.
- Authorized the transfer of \$20,000 from 1983-1984 surplus into an account for payment to the Board attorney both with his present firm and as a member of a previous firm.
- Okayed the application for \$8,000 in state aid for the Basic Skills Improvement Program (open story education) for the 1983-1984 school year.
- Approved the attendance of a maximum of three of its members at the National School Boards Convention and Exposition in Houston from Saturday to Tuesday, March 31 to April 3, of next year.
- Authorized advanced study grants in various language-related courses for David Van Sleet, a language teacher in the township's elementary school.
- Okayed the reimbursement of Patricia Finzel, Lacey Cassidy and Muriel Cassidy for their attendance at a reading conference at Montclair State College in Upper Montclair.
- Approved the addition of Dolores L. Alvarez, Gina Slavitski and Susan Decker as substitute pre-school aides. Helen Macaluso as a substitute clerk and Anthony C. Cella as a substitute custodian, all for the present school year.
- Authorized the appointment of Philip Foster as the principal of the Valley Road School for the 1983-1984 school year, effective on Sunday, July 1, of next year.

free rabies shots offered by the township.

Although Councilman Pozniak agreed with Councilman Sangliano that enforcement would be a problem, he said he was more concerned with the health problems and the fact that cats had been destroying grass and shrubbery.

First Ward Councilman Raymond Krow said he had some reservations about the ordinance because more information was needed. He said he saw no reason to oppose its introduction.

A motion to table the introduction of the measure was defeated along party lines and its introduction was passed by a 4-3 vote along party lines.

Also, if there had been no answer filed by Fischer to the tenure charges, according to Mr. Glickman, the commissioner would have been able to make the decision directly without going through an administrative law judge.

Although the sexual assault charges reportedly were brought by the parents of children in the Clark public schools, Mr. Glickman could neither confirm nor deny this because the Board of Education was not informed by the Union County prosecutor, who investigated the matter, of the specific names of students involved.

Although Mr. Glickman could not give a date by which the commissioner will make a decision, he said he could see no reason why Mr. Cooperman would not accept the agreement made before the administrative law judge since it was agreed to by both parties.

Fischer pact: He'll not teach in Clark

By R. R. Faszezewski
Unless New Jersey Commissioner of Education Saul I. Friedman should decide not to accept a mutual agreement made before one of the administrative law judges in his department on Nov. 21, a township teacher placed on probation on sexual assault charges filed in Superior Court on behalf of students by their parents will formally resign his position in the Clark public schools and give up his teaching certificate to the state board of examiners.

According to Steven Glickman, the attorney for the Clark Board of Education, the tentative agreement, reached by himself, representing the Board, and James Schwern, the attorney for the teacher, Frederick Fischer, after the school body filed charges under the tenure law.

The school body, according to Mr. Glickman, is required to file such charges if it wishes to take action against a tenured teacher to have him resign his position.

In the case of a non-tenured teacher the only action required would be for the education body not to renew his contract.

Eckel, Pozniak: We'll stay on Council

By R. R. Faszezewski
Responding to implications by the township Republican municipal chairman, George Crater, that they should resign from the governing body after changing from Republican to Democrat recently, both Township Councilman-at-Large Joseph B. Pozniak and Township Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel told The Clark Patriot last week they had no intention of resigning and they had been elected to serve all the people of Clark not just those of one particular political party.

Mr. Crater made the comments at the Nov. 21 Governing Body session, saying the change in parties of the two former Republicans "had made only a minuscule change" in the composition of the Council and he was awaiting their resignations for councilmen.

The Republican chairman added, referring to the recent comments of the assistant United States United Nations ambassador about the Russians, he would be glad to be among the first to see the councilmen off if they didn't like the way things were run in the township.

He also said the two councilmen would be "placed in limbo" by their new party and probably be in the same place as (Peter) Okrasinski, the Union County freeholder who resigned from the Republican Party earlier this year to become a Democrat.

The change of parties of Councilmen Eckel and Pozniak swayed the Clark Council from 5-2 Republican to 4-3 Democrat.

According to Councilman Eckel he was motivated to change his party because of the "toxin" in

the township GOP in telling him and other councilmen how to vote, especially on such issues as the Council presidency and rent control. The controversy in the Republican Party was reportedly working in the and the beginning of this year when party leaders accused Mr. Pozniak of violating an agreement among GOP Council members to rotate the Council presidency among them.

Party officials had said Mr. Pozniak, who is the president of the Governing Body now, had teamed up with Mr. Eckel, Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage, Third Ward Republican Councilwoman Ruth DeLuca and the Democrats to deprive Councilman-at-Large George Sangliano of the Council presidency.

Councilman Pozniak was subsequently expelled from the Clark Republican Club, the mayor and Councilwoman DeLuca were reprimanded and Councilman Eckel resigned from the club in response to the expulsion of Mr. Pozniak.

According to Councilman Eckel one of the major reasons for his decision to change parties was also the fact the Republican organization line in the Primary Election for county Republican committee in June had been denied to himself and Councilman Pozniak.

Although the mayor and Mrs. DeLuca also ran for the committee slots on the organization, along with Councilmen Eckel and Pozniak, the mayor was unopposed in the Primary and Mrs. DeLuca defeated her organization opponent, whereas the two councilmen-at-large lost their committee seats.

Another major reason for the change in parties, according to Councilman Eckel, was that he and Councilman Pozniak had been

backed by the Republican Party for working in the township and, in his judgment, the people he had chosen had done a wonderful job.

One of the complaints coming from Republican leaders last spring had been that the freeholder had placed the township and, in his judgment, the people he had chosen had done a wonderful job.

He added the decision on who should be the head of the Council alone and he had received a 5-2 vote in winning the post.

The Council president also said he had chosen people to lead Council committees who he had thought would do the best job for the township and, in his judgment, the people he had chosen had done a wonderful job.

As for the comments from Mr. Crater comparing his situation to that of Mr. Okrasinski, Councilman Eckel said the freeholder had apparently had the same problems with the party at his level as the Clark councilmen had had with the party at their level.

He added no deals had been made with the Democrats and he had made no decision about whether or not he would run next year.

Many of the problems in the township could have been solved if Mr. Crater had stepped down as GOP municipal chairman about three to four months ago and let the party settle its problems, according to Councilman Eckel.

During the public comment session of the Nov. 21 meeting a registered Democrat, Jerome Goff of 109 Thomas Dr., said he admired Councilman Eckel and Councilman Pozniak for working in the township and, in his judgment, the people he had chosen had done a wonderful job.

He also said some members of his own party in the township had been on the Township Council had put the party ahead of the best interests of the township.

A former Democratic councilman, Thomas Winters of 107 Della Terr., who said he had been a registered Democrat for 45 years, said he admired the two councilmen, although he didn't think they would get that many votes in his area of the township.

Mr. Winters said he hoped the Democratic Party would come up with suitable candidates next year because he thought the message which was being sent out in the township was it was "time for a change."

In official action, the Council voted to introduce an amendment to the township animal control ordinance to provide for regulation of cats just as dogs are regulated at present. Although Councilman Sangliano said the police are having a problem enforcing the ordinance requiring owners to clean up after their dogs and they would have more of a problem with "chasing after cats," Second Ward Councilman George Nucera said the dog-control ordinance had made people more aware of the health problem caused by not taking care of their animals and adding cat control to the ordinance would cause people to bring in their cats more often for the

Hearings to be held on garbage pickup

The chairman of the Capital Improvement Committee of the Clark Township Council, Councilman-at-Large George Sangliano, announced the committee will hold public hearings at the municipal building on Westfield Ave., Clark, on Wednesdays, Dec. 7 and 14, at 7:30 p.m. in order to receive input from the residents of Clark concerning the institution of municipal garbage collection.

"Our residents are presently at the mercy of the private collectors and the Public Utilities Commission," the councilman said. "I said studied the garbage situation for 10 months and hope when my committee completes its study we can recommend to the entire Council that our township adopt municipal collection. My studies have shown we can provide twice-a-week pickup for garbage and once-a-week clean-up for well within the \$850,000 spent currently by our residents for garbage collection. We are hoping for great participation at the hearings in order to obtain a true picture of how our residents feel about municipal collection. At the present time

private collectors will not take our grass clippings, nor anything more than what they deem 'garbage.' If the township takes over collection the residents will be able to put anything in their garbage cans."

"Another important benefit to municipal collection is by paying for garbage in our taxes, this expense is deductible on income taxes. Consequently, it will create an even greater savings to everyone," he added.

Councilman Sangliano urged all residents to attend these hearings in an effort to help the members of the study committee in their deliberations and findings, "which will affect everyone in Clark," he concluded.



REIGNING OVER CRUSADERS - Lisa Asaf was recently crowned the Homecoming Queen at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark during the football season.