

Clark Patriot



'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'



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Philip A. Miller to leave school position; Philip Foster appointed administrator

By R.R. Faszczewski

The man who has been the secretary of the Clark Board of Education and the township's school business administrator since 1977, Philip A. Miller, Dec. 13 submitted his resignation from the Clark post, effective on Sunday, Feb. 5, of next year.

Mr. Miller told The Clark Patriot he is accepting a secretary/business administrator position in the Bernardsville school system because the district is more progressive, the financial benefits are better than he can receive in Clark, the district covers kindergarten to 12th grade and a budget has never been defeated in the history of the Bernardsville school system.

The former president of the Clark Board of Education, Mr. Miller resigned that post on Sept. 6, 1977 to accept the secretary/administrator position.

A business administration graduate of Long Island University, he holds a master of business administration degree from Kean College of New Jersey in Union.

Mr. Miller worked in an administrative capacity in the construction industry for 14 years before joining the Clark staff in the administrative position.

In order to permit Mr. Miller to work with Board members on finalizing the 1984-1985 school budget, the education body Dec. 13

voted to pay him for 14 and one-half vacation days he would have taken during the next month, at a maximum amount of \$2,252.43.

Commenting on the secretary's departure, Board member, Thelma Purdy, who took over for him as president, and served several terms in that post, after he was appointed administrator, said he had served the Clark district above and beyond the call of duty, and complimented him for interest, ambition and loyalty.

Mrs. Purdy added during Mr. Miller's tenure the business office had improved and become more efficient.

Her comments were echoed by the present head of the Clark Board of Education, Mrs. Eileen Mezzo, and Board member, Mrs. Marie Soyka.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farnella, who had recommended Mr. Miller for the position in 1977, said he had done a highly commendable job.

Appointed to replace Mr. Miller as an acting Board secretary/school business administrator was Philip Foster, who is the present head of special services for the school district.

His appointment will take effect on Wednesday, Feb. 1, of next year and he will be paid a monthly stipend of \$600.

The Foster appointment requires the approval of the commissioner of education before it is final.

A resident, Cindy Altieri of 42 Wendell Pl., asked how the Board members determined Mr. Foster was qualified to become business administrator.

Mrs. Mezzo responded Mr. Foster had held the position several years ago before Mr. Miller was appointed to the job.

After Mrs. Altieri, who said she is the mother of two classified children, expressed concern that the school system's Child Study Team, which is under the direction of Mr. Foster, would suffer because of the appointment, the Board president said Mr. Foster would be handling both positions and on a temporary basis only.

She added the Board would have to evaluate both the administrator and the director of special services position after the end of the current school year to decide which direction both posts would take in the future.

Mrs. Mezzo noted Mr. Foster has already been appointed principal of Valley Road School for the 1984-1985 school year.

An attempt by Board member, James E. Kehoe, to have Dr. Farnella's secretary, Dorothy Rybak, appointed as temporary

assistant Board secretary died for lack of a second.

In other action members of the school body authorized the superintendent to institute a cap-waiver appeal of \$590,100 for the 1984-1985 budget.

Mr. Miller explained the waiver was made necessary because the current expense budget for 1983-1984 had been lowered because the school body had taken \$585,000 from surplus to meet expenses and avoid a tax increase.

Under the state "Caps" limit on spending governmental bodies may only spend up to a certain percentage over the previous year's budget.

Dr. Farnella told Board members the 1984-1985 budget as it stands now will increase by approximately

5.3% over the 1983-1984 tab and the current expense tab will rise about 2.1%.

These figures are not final because the Board still has months to go before it approves the final figures.

However, the proposed budget must be submitted to the Union County superintendent of schools by Monday, Jan. 16, for approval.

Responding to a comment by Mr. Kehoe that the Board had not spent enough time analyzing the 1984-1985 budget before asking for the waiver, Mrs. Mezzo said although the county superintendent will be able to tell the Board which items in the waiver appeal he approves of, and these items would not be able to be acted upon by the school body after that, the

total budget could be cut after the county official made his decision.

The specific items to be addressed in the "CAP" appeal were to be decided at a meeting of the Board on Dec. 15.

Mr. Kehoe introduced a motion to reconsider proposals made a few years ago by Servicemaster of Roselle Park to the Board under which the firm would provide a person to train maintenance personnel and its own supplies under a contract to provide custodial and maintenance to the school system.

Responding to a charge by Mr. Kehoe that the proposals had not been given adequate consideration, Board member, Edward Dreyfus, said the proposals

had been considered for about eight months.

Mr. Miller reminded the school body members the salary for the training person hired by Servicemaster could run as high as \$25,000 to \$30,000.

He added he could ask the firm if it wanted to give another presentation to the Board, but it could not be hired without putting the proposal out for competitive bidding.

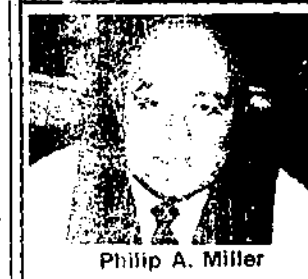
The Kehoe proposal was tabled, with only him voting against the table motion, made at the suggestion of Board member, F. Donald Paris, who felt the firm should be sent a letter to ask if it could update its proposals to reflect the changes in costs and other items since the last presentation it had made.

Board members also tabled a motion by Mr. Kehoe to have Educational Management Systems Co. analyze the school district's payroll system.

Board vice president, Thomas Faria, said the Board should get a report or written proposal on the firm's service before committing itself to any agreement.

Mrs. Purdy objected to the suggestion that an outside firm should do the work the office of the business administrator was being paid to do.

The motion to table was made by Mr. Dreyfus, who said Mr. Kehoe should consult with the business administrator and the entire Board business committee before taking any action.



Philip A. Miller

It was announced the Board had received a letter from the law firm of Katz and Pantner, which represents a land developer interested in exchanging parcels of land it owns for Board-owned parcels near the Carl H. Kampel School.

Mr. Dreyfus said the Buildings and Grounds Committee, of which he is chairman, would review the proposal before making any suggestions to the school body.

Liturgy marks Mother Seton's 20th year

The 20th anniversary of Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark was commemorated at a Liturgy of the Eucharist. His excellency, Bishop Dominic Marconi, Union County vicar, was the principal celebrant and The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Loreti, the pastor of the Assumption parish in Roselle Park and religion teacher at Mother Seton, delivered the homily. The Rev. John P. McGovern, chaplain at Mother Seton, celebrated the Liturgy along with past chaplains of the school and several priests.

Following the Mass an informal reception was held in the school cafeteria.

The School was opened on Sept. 16, 1963 in an isolated second floor wing of the new building while construction continued. On Feb. 1, 1964 the Sisters of Charity formally moved into their new convent. The first class numbered 115. Two priests and five sisters constituted the faculty. Sister Irene Margaret was appointed as the founding principal of the school.

Ten sisters, four priests and four lay teachers with 325 girls opened the school year of 1964-1965. The first Mass was celebrated on Friday, Oct. 2, 1964.

On Saturday, March 20, 1965, the cornerstone of the convent was laid by The Most Rev. Thomas A. Boland, the archbishop of Newark. The ceremony was attended by Mother Joanna Marie and her council, officials of the township of Clark and parents, relatives and friends of the staff and students. The first exhibition of physical education was presented on June 5, 1965.

The third year was opened with five priests, 12 sisters, 22 lay teachers and 565 students. A driver education program was introduced and a car obtained. All areas of the school except office practice and physics were in full use. The homemaking, art, music and business programs were expanded.

The first class was graduated in June, 1967. State accreditation was obtained and preparations were made for Middle States accreditation. In spring 1970 the school received Middle States accreditation for the maximum period of 10 years.

On Feb. 1, 1975, Sister Regina Martin Keane, the present principal, became the second principal of Mother Seton.

The Holy Year of 1975 provided the faculty and students with an added incentive - the preparation for the canonization of Elizabeth Ann Seton.

In September, 1975, Mother Seton was raised to sainthood in an official ceremony at the Vatican. Faculty members, students, parents, and friends joined the Mother Seton community in an official celebration at the school that month.

In the Bicentennial year, 1976, students and faculty participated in numerous activities both in the school and throughout the community. In November, 1977, Dr. William McCarthy led a team of state evaluators in renewing state accreditation for the school.

During 1978 Archbishop Peter L. Gerety, the archbishop of Newark, and Bishop Marconi paid official visits to the school.

In the fall of 1979, several Mother Seton students and faculty members attended the "Youth in Concert" Rally welcoming Pope John Paul II to Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The second Middle States Evaluation was conducted in the fall of 1979. The team of evaluators was led by Sister Stasia Holohan of New York. Sister Regina Martin announced the Middle States accreditation was renewed for the maximum period of 10 years - until 1990.

In the fall of 1981 representatives of the New Jersey Dept. of Education evaluated an updated curriculum as well as other improvements in the school and its facilities.

The report, submitted by Dr. Walter M. McCarthy further emphasized "the accomplishment of sound educational goals that have been achieved through the conscientious leadership of administration and staff". Again, accreditation was renewed.

The challenges of the technology of the 1980's have caused significant changes in the curriculum offerings, particularly in the area of business education and mathematics. The school offers extensive academic and co-curricular activities. A complete college preparatory and business curriculum is offered in the major subject areas. Several advanced courses such as calculus, physics and molecular biology are offered to students who successfully complete honors courses. The business curriculum offers a work-experience pro-

gram for senior business students. Courses in computer literacy are required of all students, and electives in computer science and word processing are popular for all students, reports the principal.

Deadlines changed for holidays

The offices of The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will be closed for the New Year's Day holiday on Monday, Jan. 2, so our staff members may enjoy the holidays. As a result, the deadline for all COPY for the Thurs-

day, Jan. 5, 1984, editions of the newspapers will be WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28, at 5 P.M.

THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.



GOOD OLD CHRISTMAS TIME - An "Old-Fashioned Christmas" was the theme of Clark's Gran Centurions holiday gala. The affair was held in the club's main dining room at 440 Madison Hill Rd. on Dec. 10. This annual event featured cocktails and hors d'oeuvres for one hour prior to the gala dinner. Over 300 members and their guests attended in the club's festively-decorated banquet room. This event was co-chaired by Mr. and Mrs. Emery Fischer, right, and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Donohi, left. Music was provided by Frank and Company.

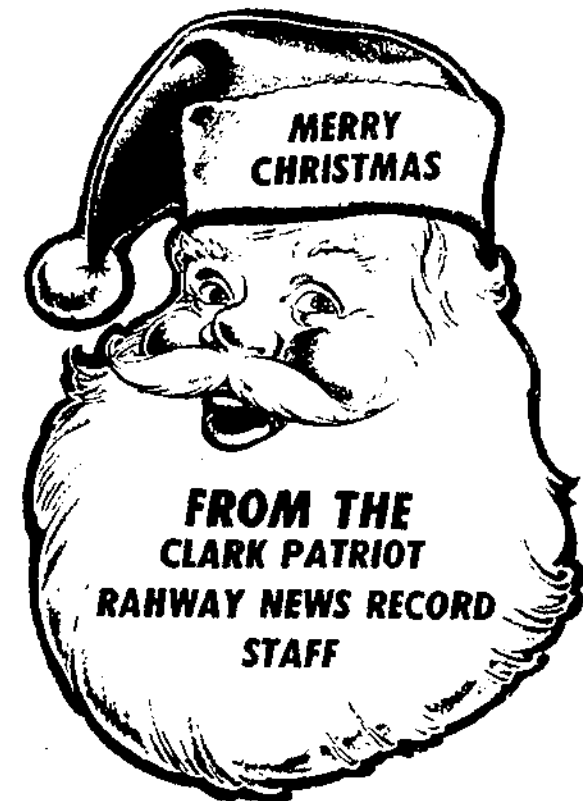


HOW WE CELEBRATE - Second graders at Clark's Frank K. Hehly School show fifth grader, Lee Cohen, what they know about Chanukah. Among those shown are Susan Linsmeyer, Christina Tabo, Daniel Broughton, Tom Korona, Christina Cutik, Benjamin Sommerstein, Tim Stumbers, Danny Trulau and Edward Grande.

David Jules cited for studies

A Clark student, David Jules, is included in the 17th Annual Edition of "Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1982-1983."

Students are selected by high school principals and guidance counselors, national youth groups, churches or the company which publishes the volume based upon their performance in scholarship award contests or extra-curricular activities.



Merry Christmas