

Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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DiFrancesco survey: 70% satisfied with schools

Nearly 70% of the people in Sen. Donald T. DiFrancesco's 22nd Legislative District, which includes Clark, are satisfied with their local public schools, but two of every three believe the emphasis upon the basic skills is inadequate.

These were among the results of an education survey Sen. DiFrancesco recently completed in the district. He said he mailed a questionnaire to almost 1,000 business, political, education and other community leaders.

The senator added more than 50% of the questionnaires were returned.

"Although we were not scientific in our mailing, I believe the responses indicate a valid cross section of opinion regarding the critically important issue of public education in our district and state," he noted.

According to the poll, 59% rate the quality of public education in the state to be excellent or good, with only 8% rating it "adequate or poor." Also, 51% believe teachers' salaries are too low.

Sixty percent of the respondents said the present system of teacher tenure should be abandoned and 79% believe high school seniors should be required

to attain at least an 11th-grade proficiency in the basic skills in order to receive a diploma.

Also, 66% endorse Gov. Thomas H. Kean's proposal to allow graduates of non-teacher colleges to be eligible to teach in the state's public schools.

"More than 60% oppose the 'voucher system' as a method of helping to offset the cost of education to parents of non-public school children," the legislator pointed out.

"I am impressed by the fact 57% of the respondents want the state to assume a higher percentage of the cost of education,"

the lawmaker declared. "Obviously, this would result in new or expanded state taxes to pay the bill, replacing the more burdensome and onerous real property taxes. However, my questionnaire did not seek opinions regarding the funding source for the increased state support."

"The poll indicated 55% believe present state statutes provide sufficient local control of education with 31% disagreeing, while 11% had no opinion. Sixty-two percent would oppose relaxing the state's 'CAP' law as it applies to education funding and 82% would oppose state-mandated schools' regional-

ization without local voter approval. Sixty-three percent believe the powers of the state commissioner of education and the county superintendent of schools should be left alone while 29% believe those powers should be curtailed," Sen. DiFrancesco continued.

"Finally, the poll indicated 55% believe their local public schools have adequate facilities and staff to satisfy the needs of particularly gifted children while 17% did not know," the senator added.

"The education survey was the first of several similar polls I plan to conduct during my term in the State Senate," the legislator continued.

The lawmaker said he plans to organize an education forum in the district and will use the results of the questionnaire to help prepare the agenda.

"Public education and its funding are among the most vexing and important issues facing our state," he said. "I believe an education forum would be a valuable tool for every interested citizen having a concern for our public education process."

The lawmaker said he will send the results of the questionnaire to anyone contacting his legislative office at 1916 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains, N. J. 07076.

Board rescinds appeal move, accepts cut

The \$195,000 cut in the current-expense portion of the 1984-1985 elementary school budget agreed to by representatives of the Board of Education and the Township Council was given Board approval on May 8, as was a resolution rescinding the appeal to the state commissioner of education of a previous Council-suggested cut of \$344,000 from current expense and the entire \$100,000 capital outlay budget.

Under the agreement the entire capital outlay budget will still be taken out of the school tab.

Although the motion to take back the move to appeal the cut to the commissioner was approved unanimously, Board member,

James E. Kehoe, stated he was voting for the motion reluctantly, according to a school body spokeswoman.

When the actual specific budget adjustments to make up the \$195,000 trimming were brought up for a vote Mr. Kehoe tried, but failed, to obtain approval to separate appropriations for micro-computers from the cut list.

He then voted against the budget adjustments, citing his support for the micro-computer appropriations, according to the education body spokeswoman.

A proposal to cut out \$1,539 allocated for outdoor education was removed and it was replaced by a cut of \$1,500 for art supplies at the Carl H. Kumpf School and language art supplies at the Frank K. Hehny School.

Board members also made up the remaining \$38 by changing the appropriation from surplus from \$44,230 to \$44,268.

Total cuts included: Four items of \$1,995 each for micro-computers and one of \$2,800 in that category; one cut of \$5,600 and three of \$2,800 each in an account for a Hehny School fifth-grade teacher; \$67,000 from teacher salaries, \$5,712 from supplemental instruction, \$5,200 from one account, \$6,000 from another account and \$10,000 from a third account for operation and maintenance of buildings; \$16,550 from an account for a maintenance man and \$10,000 from the

account for substitute teachers.

When the original Council-proposed cuts had come through the Board members had put several classroom teachers, music teacher, Mrs. Rose Bachraty, librarian, Mrs. Rosemary Lynch, maintenance man, James Loprete, and three custodians on the Reduction-in-Force list.

However, with the revised budget-cut figures the following were taken off that list: Classroom teachers, Mrs. Joyce Furness; Mrs. Elaine Zemeckis; Mrs. Betty Truss; Mrs. Marie Gagliardi; Barbara Russ and Mrs. Elsa Dreyfus; Mrs. Bachraty, Mrs. Lynch, Mr. Loprete and Frank Galiszewski, a custodian.



EYES ON THE FUTURE - Discussing some of the courses offered by the Union County Vocational and Technical School in Scotch Plains, shown, left to right are: In the background, the admissions counselor from the vocational and technical school, Richard Spakowski, and Carl H. Kumpf School guidance counselor, Mrs. Mary Foster; front, Kumpf eighth graders, John Bridgman, Chris Peissler, Lisa Venditto and Vincent Cositto.

Hopefuls told release dates

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE SENIORITY POLL. The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will publish their pre-election advance issues on Thursday, May 31.

All biographies and/or pictures of the candidates for that issue must be in the hands of the editor at 219 Central Ave., Rahway, N. J. 07065, by 5 P. M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 23.

In order to give candidates a chance to respond to any charges made by opponents, NO CHARGES WILL BE ACCEPTED LATER THAN 5 P. M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 17, FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MAY 24 EDITION.

ATTENTION READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS OF NEWS COPY: The offices of The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will be closed on MONDAY, MAY 28, in observance of the MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY. In order that the members of our staff may enjoy the holiday ALL COPY for the Thursday, MAY 31, editions of the

PUBLICATION IN THE MAY 24 EDITION. **POSTPONEMENT:** ALL CANDIDATES WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO ONE-AND-A-HALF PAGE NEWS RELEASES PER WEEK DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE DEADLINES, except in the case of an election cancellation or postponement, in which event the editor will decide which deadlines to impose WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE.

ALL RELEASES MUST FOLLOW THE AFFIDAVIT RULES PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER.

Papers set holiday deadline

newspapers MUST be in the hands of the editor at 219 CENTRAL AVE., RAHWAY, NO LATER THAN 5 P. M. ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 23.

ANY COPY SUBMITTED AFTER THIS DATE WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE HELD OVER FOR THE FOLLOWING WEEK'S EDITIONS.

Clark schools offer pre-school testing

Clark public schools personnel are looking for children who will be three or four years old by Monday, Dec. 31, for the township's pre-school program.

Do you know of a pre-school child who may have a developmental delay in learning, speech, vision, hearing, motor or a social-emotional area? He or she may be eligible for the program.

If you would like to take advantage of this free screening, please telephone 388-6394.

In a slide presentation Mr. Spakowski highlighted the range of career choices offered, which includes automobile mechanics, commercial art, welding, baking, heavy culture and electricity.



MAKING IT OFFICIAL - Looking over the proclamation declaring May as Senior Citizens Month in Clark, shown, left to right, are: Standing, Stella Penzak, Barry P'isano and Emily Conti; seated, Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage, co-ordinator, Virginia Apellan and Liz Hudak.



FOR THEIR ELDERS - Showing recognition for Clark's senior citizens during Senior Citizens Month, this month, left to right, are: Standing, Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage, co-ordinator, Virginia Apellan and Peter M. Campana.

Township honors seniors this month

Clark Mayor Bernard G. Yarusavage proclaimed the month of May as Senior Citizen Month. The theme for this year is "Health, Make It Last a Lifetime."

The Mayor's Senior Citizen Action Committee co-ordinators, Virginia Apellan and Peter M. Campana, members, Emily Conti, Liz Hudak, Harriet Keasky, Stella Penzak, Barbara Pi-

smo, Morris Reitman, Rose Tronchik and Ruth and Ralph Whittle, were on hand for the signing of the mayor's proclamation.

Mayor Yarusavage announced the Annual Memorial Weekend Kick-Off Senior Citizen Brunch for all Clark seniors, will be held on Saturday, May 26, at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School on

Westfield Ave. Clark, N. J. 07065, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All Clark senior citizens, 62 years and older may join in with the committee for fun, food, socializing and prizes, requests may be made by calling the mayor. The ticket donation will be \$3. For additional information regarding the brunch please telephone 388-4323 or Ruth Whittle at 276-5706.



IT'S THE LAW - In observance of Law Day students in Walter Boright's "American Heritage" class at the Carl H. Kumpf School in Clark were taken to a Law Day assembly program. Stanley Fink, a Clark attorney and the president of the Union County Bar Association, spoke to the students on our American system of justice, presented a film and distributed literature on New Jersey law and legal careers. Mr. Fink then addressed specific questions posed by the students. Also in attendance were Mrs. Mary Foster, a guidance counselor, and those pupils interested in law careers. Kumpf students, Corey Todros, left, Charles Lacey, second from left, and Howard Austrager, third from left, and their teacher, Mr. Boright, meet with Mr. Fink, right, during the assembly program.

UNION COUNTY INFORMATION SYSTEM
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