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Board adopts tentative \$5.7 million budget

by R.R. Faszczewski

The Clark Board of Education Jan. 8 adopted a tentative 1985-1986 budget of \$5,773,936 and a capital outlay budget for the 1985-1986 school year of \$199,950.

The current expense budget is down \$139,752 from the 1984-1985 tentative current expense figure of \$5,913,688 or about 2.4 percent less than the previous figure, reports Edward Flanagan, the Board secretary.

Mr. Flanagan also told The Clark Patriot the tentative budget which had originally been proposed had been cut by \$75,000 before it was adopted for the year on Jan. 8.

According to Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farnella although the tentative budget will mean the elimination of six staff positions it will have no significant effect on school programs.

The tentative 1985-1986 budget was adopted by a 6-1 vote of Board members present with only John Dillon casting a dissenting ballot. The capital outlay budget was unanimously passed 7-0.

Board members, John Fitzpatrick and James Kehoe, were not present for the session.

The hearing date for the final adoption of the budget has not been set yet, but according to Mr. Flanagan, the hearing will probably be held in the beginning of March.

Township voters will cast ballots on both the current expense and the capital outlay budgets at the School Board Election on Tuesday, April 2.

Board members Jan. 8 also heard a report from Steven Gould, an advisor to the Eastern Union County Chamber of Commerce, on a study the chamber did last year on the township's

elementary school system's business functions.

According to Mr. Flanagan some of the recommendations in last year's study were carried forward from a similar study done in 1977.

The Board secretary/school business administrator is expected to give his response to the recommendations made in the study to the Board of Education on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

According to the report the study team feels recommendations made by the previous study team but not acted upon are still viable today and should be implemented when they are applicable and meaningful.

The 1984 study team also recommended a portion of the team review with the superintendent and the business administrator the recommendations in late April or early May of this year.

Among the specific improvements recommended in the study conducted last year was that general property and liability insurance be purchased on a cooperative basis by the various school districts in the region to reduce costs.

Also recommended was the handling of the data-processing operations for attendance programming, maintenance and administrative costs by an outside service rather than within the school system itself as is presently done.

The study team suggested Education Management Systems of Upper Montclair be asked to present a feasibility report to the Board and the administrator with a view toward retaining the Upper Montclair firm or some equally qualified organization to perform the functions now performed by school administration personnel equipment.

A preliminary figure of \$8,500 was given by the systems firm to handle all budgetary and payroll functions performed in 1982-1983 at a cost of \$14,100 by school administration.

Members of the study team were also advised existing data-processing equipment could be sold to provide further savings to the Board.

In order to improve inventory control the committee recommended the establishment of supplier evaluations and firmer safeguards against duplicate billing and that written documentation of materials which do not conform to Board standards be instituted by all schools.

Another recommendation was that the administrator's secretary, who also serves as his secretary as Board secretary, be allowed time during her

regular work schedule to transcribe the school body minutes rather than doing it at home at an overtime cost to the school system.

A review of staff operations to minimize costs and the consideration of cross-training of personnel by the administrator was suggested.

It was also pointed out planning for peak work periods should be done by gradually starting the work days or weeks prior to the actual due date.

Presently the head custodian works during the regular school day while the remainder of the custodial staff works at night.

The chamber team recommended the head custodian work the same hours as the other custodians and thereby perform his duties as supervisor.

It was also recommended the day shift be assigned to one of the regular custodial staff members.



YOU-DID-IT... Sister Regina Martin, second from right, the principal at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark, is congratulated by left to right, Dr. Walter M. McGowhey, Saul Rossier and Sister Catherine Moran, members of the state evaluation team which recommended the school for renewal of state approval to June, 1990.

State praises Mother Seton schooling

Sister Regina Martin, the principal, received notification that Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark was recommended for renewal of its state approval to June, 1990. A team of evaluators visited the school recently to conduct the evaluation.

Dr. Walter M. McGowhey, the manager of non-public school services, under the Division of General Academic Education for New Jersey, conducted the evaluation. Mr. Saul Rossier, educational specialist for non-public school services, and Sister Catherine Moran, assistant superintendent of schools in the Archdiocese of Newark, completed the committee.

The visiting committee found the school continues to meet the standards and criteria required of private secondary schools for approval. The findings are summarized as follows:

1. A well-developed statement of philosophy provides direction to the program. Comprehensive educational objectives, related to both the philosophy and the curriculum, have been established.
2. The school is well organized and competently administered under a responsible board of control.

3. Teachers and administrators are qualified by educational background, professional preparation and teaching experience. All hold degrees, over half on the graduate level. There appears to be excellent rapport among administration, teachers and students.

4. An organized program of instructional supervision is in place. Formal and informal lesson observations are conducted by administrators and department chairmen.

5. A variety of in-service activities provides for the professional improvement of the staff. These activities are planned by a committee of the faculty.

6. A faculty curriculum council is responsible for curriculum evaluation and development. There was evidence of considerable curriculum activity.

7. The full range of guidance services is provided to all the students.

8. Library/multi-media facilities, resources and professional services are available on a full-time basis and well utilized by the students and staff.

9. The school facilities provide an appropriate environment for teaching and learning. They are attractive and well maintained.

10. The curriculum meets, and in some aspects, exceeds, statutory graduation requirements in communications, computation, science, United States history, physical education, health, arts and career education. Family life education is an integral part of the total program.

Courses of study including curriculum proficiencies are being developed in all subjects.

11. The credit system is commensurate with the credit structure prescribed in regulations. Credits required for graduation exceed the minimum.

The curriculum continues to be remarkably rich and varied. Its comprehensiveness is illustrated in the following aspects: Variety of electives in subject areas to provide breadth and depth of study; a comprehensive business education program, programs in the fine and practical arts, advanced placement and honors programs, an expanding computer education program, a reading program and a comprehensive activities program.

Students are spirited, positive in their outlook, and very supportive of the school. A warm, friendly atmosphere prevails.

The visiting committee based its findings on information gleaned from discussions, observations and a careful review of various materials describing the school, reports Sister Regina.



THREE GENERATIONS... Clark Democratic Councilman-at-Large Joseph B. Puzniak, second from left, is sworn in for another term at the Township Council's re-organization meeting by Township Clerk Edward R. Padusniak, right, as his grandson, Ross Lemenile, holds the Bible. Looking on are the councilman's son-in-law, Steven Lemenile, and his daughter, Mrs. Steven Lemenile.

Theatre gets first installment on pledge

The Union County Arts Center project in Rahway is the recipient of a \$7,500 first installment on a \$20,000 gift pledged by Robert S. Engelman, retired president of Chicago's world-famous Spiegel mail order house and son of Bernard ("Barney") Engelman, who built the Rahway Theatre in 1928.

The arts center project involves restoration of the once-elegant, 1,400-seat theatre, which was acquired for that purpose by a nonprofit group in September, 1984.

A sum of nearly \$800 was earlier donated by the same benefactor to pay for a bronze memorial plaque to be installed in the lobby of the restored theatre honoring the elder Mr. Engelman, who died in 1950.

Robert Engelman's \$20,000 pledge was made during a nostalgic return visit to the Rahway Theatre in November, 1984. The \$12,500 balance will be spread over a five-year period.

Rahway Landmarks, the nonprofit corporation which purchased the 56-year-old former vaudeville theatre from the Wood Group of Morristown, has already contracted with the Conrad Schmitt Studios of Wisconsin to commence restoration sometime this month. Most of the work will be done by local labor, specially trained by artisans on the staff of the Wisconsin firm, reports a spokesman.

Before building the theatre in 1927-1928, Barney Engelman had already made his mark as

one of this city's more respected businessmen. He ran its largest department store, was active in the management of two of its banks, and had extensive real estate holdings within the city. He was also a philanthropist and civic activist. The plaque honoring him is expected to be unveiled sometime this spring, the spokesman added.

The history of the Rahway Theatre is told in a just-published 50-page souvenir book, copies of which are available at the theatre on weekends.

Extra time for Fido

The Clark Township Clerk's Office will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Jan. 19 and 26, for those wishing to renew dog licenses.

The deadline for license renewal is Thursday, Jan. 31. After that date a late fee will be imposed, reports Township Clerk Edward R. Padusniak.



Township changes disposal schedule

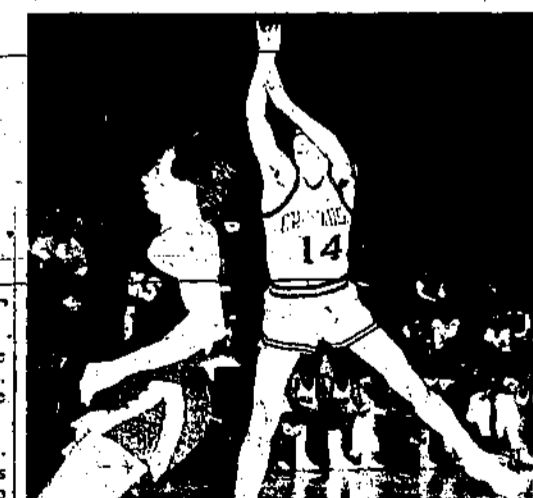
A new schedule has been set for the opening of the municipal disposal service for Clark, reports Mayor George Nucera.

The new schedule will be Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The use of the compactors will be ex-

clude household garbage and building materials. Christmas trees may be brought to the compactor.

Large, bulky items including stoves, refrigerators and sofas, will be picked up by township public works employees only upon request by the property owners.



ON THE MARK... Clark's Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School Crusaders' Mark Henry, No. 14, goes for a shot during the recent North Plainfield game.