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'Search for Conscience' draws Dillon's fire

By R.R. Faszczewski
Students in Clark's elementary schools will be taught about various atrocities committed by men against fellow human beings in the modern era, such as the Holocaust, thanks to a 6-1 vote of the township's Board of Education on Jan. 22.

The lone dissenter against the curriculum, called "A Search for Conscience," was Board member, John Dillon.

Mr. Dillon, reading from a lengthy prepared statement, said he didn't like the fact the curriculum was weighted mainly toward the Holocaust, the extermination of Jews in the 1930s and 1940s by the Nazis, and did not mention more modern atrocities such as those committed by the Communists in Afghanistan and China.

However, he added, his main objection was the mere recitation of horrors involved in the various atrocities in the curriculum would probably have a crippling and frightening mental effect on children of elementary school age.

The Board member explained Gov. Thomas Kean had announced an executive order creating an Advisory Council on Holocaust Education, which led to the proposed establishment of the Holocaust curricula around the state.

He added it was dangerous for the governor, in order to fulfill a political pledge, to try to dictate a curriculum on morality, which should be dictated by "a higher authority."

If the public schools are to be used to teach morality to then students must be given a "blueprint for morality," Mr. Dillon noted.

He said he intended to introduce at the Jan. 22 meeting a new curriculum on the Decalogue or the Ten Commandments to provide

that blueprint, since it was understood the Decalogue was the basis of many Christian, Hebrew and other religions' thoughts.

However, that proposal was not introduced.

The Board member also said one of the dangerous implications of the "Holocaust" curriculum was it would leave students with the impression that because it happened in Germany if they were not on their guard it could happen here also.

He further called for a greater concentration on the basics of education—reading, writing and mathematics—rather than on having teachers impose their standards of morality on students.

However, Board member, F. Donald Paris, called the curriculum a good idea.

He said it would give children a good sense of history, add to their writing skills by having them interpret in writing what they studied and show them how to avoid the pitfalls of the past in their futures.

Board member, Marie Soyka, said it was important for students to know the moral issues involved in their studies—the good as well as the bad.

Another Board member in support of the curriculum, Thelma Purdy, said she gave credit to the state for suggesting schools teach what we as humans have done to each other and to educate children to be as decent as the majority of their fellow men are as a goal to strive for.

In further support, Dr. John T. Farinella, the superintendent of schools, quoted an editorial from a local daily newspaper which said it made "little sense to educate the young without giving them the moral values to apply to their education."

Board president, Thomas Faria, who is an administrator in the Roselle Park school system, said the teachers were well trained in presenting the curriculum in such a light that it would be beneficial to all.

He added other areas of study, such as the more modern atrocities Mr. Dillon spoke about, could be added later if school officials thought it was necessary.

In other action, Board members also adopted an affirmative action plan for the schools and a contract practices plan, both aimed at administering the schools on an equal basis for all and hiring more females and minorities in positions at every level.

At the present time the superintendent of schools and the three principals are all white males.

This situation is attributed to declining enrollment and, under the affirmative action plan it is recommended as vacancies occur attempts should be made to add female administrators.

Attempts will also be made to explore hiring more minority, female and male teachers. "To increase recruiting and, if a vacancy occurs in the physical education department, where there is only one female teacher, an attempt will be made to return a female teacher from the Reduction-In-Force List to fill the vacancy."

Increased recruiting efforts will include attempts to hire females for the custodial and/or maintenance force.

In-service activities planned for 1984-1985 included appointment of an affirmative action chairman whose responsibilities will include keeping faculty aware of current legislation in affirmative action, planning and implementing, in

co-operation with the building principal, a staff in-service meeting during the school year prior to December, 1984; a follow-up to the meeting, getting displays and bulletin boards to reflect the roles of women in history, black history, multi-ethnic cultures, brotherhood and non-traditional careers, and planning in the fall of 1986 an in-service program for the entire faculty and staff on affirmative action.

Other affirmative action activities planned include the review of affirmative action practices by each school principal and his staff at scheduled faculty

meetings, the dissemination of materials for use in observance of "black" history month by the curriculum office, the inclusion of mandated holiday observances in all teacher plan books and a check by the principal to assure compliance and a career day at the Carl H. Kumpf Middle School.

In addition there will be a district-wide committee established to analyze and review textbooks and instructional materials, curriculum guides, classroom practices and school practices.

Represented on the committee will be the Board of Education, district ad-

ministrators, students and community residents, with the work of the committee disseminated through the superintendent's bulletin and meetings, principals' bulletins and news releases to the local newspapers.

The district committee will build upon the work of other committees in the Clark elementary school district such as the curriculum committees, and the education body's policies on controversial issues, non-discrimination and equal educational opportunity will serve as the framework for the district committee.

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Board okays three-year teacher contract

By R.R. Faszczewski
What has reportedly been the longest teacher contract negotiations in the history of the Clark public elementary schools came to an end on Jan. 22 when the Clark Board of Education voted to approve a three-year contract with the Clark Education Assn.

According to Board secretary and school business administrator, Edward Flanagan, the salary increases average out to about 8.25 percent in the first and third years of the pact, which is effective from July 1, 1984 to Tuesday, June 30, 1987, and about 8.5 percent during the second year.

Mr. Flanagan told the Clark Patriot the above percentages by no means indicate that each teacher will get the increase indicated, but that the total package of salaries and benefits for the bargaining unit is divided according to a schedule worked out later.

Negotiations on the new contract had been going on since the fall of 1983 and the Board had tentatively ratified an agreement earlier this year.

However, disagreements had developed between the school body and the association about the interpretation of the contract and this had prolonged final ratification by both groups.

Although there had been some threats of a strike last fall no job action really developed.

The education body also approved agreements between the Board and its two executive secretaries giving them "approximately the same percentage increases as the teacher groups."

Another pact approved on Jan. 22 gives the three principals, the curriculum co-ordinator and the director of student personnel services an approximate

average increase of 7.75 percent, according to Mr. Flanagan.

Board members also adopted on second reading a table of organization which sets the chain of command for the school system.

The two people voting against the measure, Board president, Thomas Faria, and Board member, Marie Soyka, objected to the fact members of the custodial staff were not more closely related organizationally to the business administrator instead of being responsible only to their building principals.

However, Mr. Flanagan explained the present system works well because the custodians report to and are evaluated by one supervisor, the principal, and the principal is, correctly, ultimately responsible for all personnel in his building.

He added there is no problem with the system now, with the maintenance foreman and maintenance workers under him and the custodial workers under the principals, because there is a good working relationship.

Mr. Faria said the maintenance personnel, who work more on repairs to the facilities while the custodial personnel work on cleanup, should look more closely at each of the tasks the custodians perform and seek to train them more in upkeep because of the fact the system's buildings are beginning to show their age.

Mrs. Soyka also said she didn't want the Board to be locked into keeping three custodians in each building, as indicated by the chart.

In other action, the Board: -Adopted a job description for the director of student personnel services.

-Approved school district calendars for the 1983-1986 school year, including the addition of Martin Luther

King Day as a holiday in 1986. Next year the slain Civil Rights leader's birthday will be a national holiday.

When Board member, Michael Dudek, objected to the fact the country has no holiday for President John F. Kennedy also, Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farinella replied the school system had nothing to do with setting the federal holidays, but that it was mandated to make King Day a school holiday because it will become a federal holiday in 1986.

-Authorized application for \$11,805 in federal Chapter No. 1 funds for fiscal year 1984 to be used for a remedial mathematics program.

-Okayed a program for the handicapped, developed by Dr. Shirley Ikeda, the director of student personnel services, and the Child Study Team, which will be funded by \$44,440 in aid.

Nucera explores ice rink in Clark

The possibility of building an ice skating rink, similar to the one in Warinanco Park, which is in Roselle-Elizabeth, adjacent to the property on which the Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark is located has been raised by Clark Mayor George G. Nucera.

In asking the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to consider the new rink, Mayor Nucera said the rink in Warinanco and the park itself are not located in an area accessible for all county residents.

He added there are many young people as well as adults who must travel to Warinanco to use the facilities there and the



LEADERS OF FUTURE...Assemblyman Bob Franks, right, who represents Clark, presents Martin Kuynezow and Jill Belvaric with Certificates of Participation in his First Annual Student Leadership Day. The certificates were presented by the assemblyman and Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School of Clark principal, Louis DeRosa, left.

Clark to distribute dairy products

The Township of Clark will participate in the Federal Dairy Program by giving to the Clark residents, who qualify, a five-pound block of cheese, reports Mayor George G. Nucera.

The cheese distribution will take place on Thursday, Feb. 7, between noon and 4 p.m. in the Municipal Building, on Westfield Ave.

Lois Stessel, local assistance director, who is in charge of this program, said there is a possibility the township may receive a limited amount of dry milk for distribution that day.

Persons eligible to receive this cheese are asked to bring a paper bag with them to carry their cheese home with them.

Jc-ettes seek baby beauties



The Clark Jaycee-ettes will sponsor a Beautiful Baby Contest at the A&P Supermarket in Clark during March. Contestants must be 36 months or younger as of Friday, March 1.

To register their children, parents must send a wallet-sized photograph and a \$3 registration fee. All photographs will be posted in the A&P Supermarket in Clark from March 1 to Thursday, March 28, 1985. Each photograph will be

numbered and given a separate ballot slot. The amount of monies cast for each baby will determine the winners.

The top four winners will receive prizes. In addition to other prizes the top two winners will receive a Cabbage Patch doll. All proceeds of this project will be donated to local charities. For a copy of the rules and an entry blank please write to: Clark Jaycee-ettes, 16 Williams St., Clark, N.J. 07066



NET GAIN... Jayne Heinze, a tennis player at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, returns a serve during a recent match.



TECHNOLOGY TAKES HOLD...An in-service meeting was conducted recently at the Carl Kumpf School in Clark by media-center specialist, Mrs. Phyllis West. Microcomputer software in language arts was demonstrated to teachers for utilization within the classrooms. Programs in logic, spelling, word attack, word processing, writing, comprehension, reading and composition skills were presented and explained by Mrs. West, standing, and Mrs. Mary Norris, a language arts teacher seated at the computer.