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Liability questions delay child abuse policy

By R.R. Faszczewski

Questions about the extent of the Board of Education's jurisdiction and about its liability in cases of suspected child abuse led the Clark Board Feb. 26 to table action on a state-mandated policy on the matter pending its study by the elementary education body's attorney, Steven Glickman.

The table motion, which was made by Board member James Kehoe, carried by a 5-2 margin, with only Michael Dudek and Thelma Purdy voting against it.

Board member, F. Donald Paris, himself an attorney, expressed reservations about several sections of the policy as proposed on Feb. 26, especially with the school body's responsibility for a clause which would require prompt action to secure treatment of such injuries as result from abuse so as to protect the health of the child.

In response to a question from Board member, John Dillon, Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farnella said an unexplained absence from school could be considered a form of child abuse because the child might have been kept home as a form of punishment.

He added the school system has a program whereby parents agree to be called by school personnel if their children are not in school and if, after the call is made, school authorities have reason to suspect a child is not being kept home for a legitimate reason under the proposed policy a school social worker might be sent to the home to investigate the matter.

Under the tabling motion both Mr. Glickman and the school district's administrative cabinet will look at the policy to see if it complies with the law and does not put the district in any jeopardy.

Mr. Glickman also said the tabling motion does meet the state's March 1 deadline for school districts to take some kind of action on a child-abuse policy.

Two other motions were held over for final action until they are examined by the school body's attorney. Mr. Dillon attempted to introduce a policy seeking to have the decalogue or Ten Commandments taught in the schools as a 'blueprint' for the teaching of morality in the schools.

The Dillon motion, was apparently in response to a Board policy adopted in January which establishes a curriculum on the Holocaust to be taught.

He had objected to that curriculum on the grounds that it was potentially harmful to give students the idea the Nazi atrocities could happen in the United States if they were not taught how to avoid them and that the curriculum did not include atrocities committed by Communist regimes.

Mr. Dillon had said in January if the schools were going to teach morality, the students should have a "blueprint" or base such as the Ten Commandments from which to garner their moral values.

In addition to the Dillon motion also tabled for further study by Mr. Glickman was a motion by Mr. Kehoe to upgrade the title of Dr. Farnella's executive secretary in order to more accurately reflect her administrative responsibilities.

Although both Mrs. Purdy and Mr. Kehoe expressed reservations the introduction of a Board policy on relations between public and non-public schools might be interpreted as lending credence to the use of taxpayer money for non-public schools, only Mr. Kehoe voted against introduction of the policy.

Responding to a question from Mr. Kehoe, Mr. Glickman said the law requires some type of school regulation outlining the relationship between public and non-public schools in the state's public school districts.

Also approved on first reading was a procedure for students to air complaints and grievances.

Mr. Dillon, the only school body member to vote against introduction, said he didn't think the procedure was needed in elementary schools.

However, Mrs. Purdy said she thought it would give students a chance to think actions through before they acted hastily.

In other action the Board:

-Approved the polling places for the Tuesday, April 2, Board of Education Election and set the voting times at 2 to 9 p.m.

-Okayed the election judges and election workers for the balloting.

-Introduced a school body policy on student progress.

-Approved on first reading a new policy on remedial instruction.

-Voted to okay on first reading a proposed administrative regulation on Individualized Education Programs for special education students.

-Authorized the acceptance of a 1980 Dodge Si-Regis four-door sedan from the township for use by school body personnel.

-Approved the reimbursement of Rosemary Lynch, Charles McCutcheon, Barbara Polackoff, Nora Provenzano and Nancy Mendonca for their attendance at conferences, seminars and workshops.

-Gave its permission for the following to receive advanced study grants: Mary Ann Barabio, Alfred Smith, Sandra Powers, Walter Boright, Ken Davidson, Barbara Polackoff, David Van Soest, Nora Provenzano, Dolores Downing and Carl Young.

-Okayed a contract with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the commission to administer the purchase of non-public school textbooks through the Clark elementary school district.

-Authorized Board secretary/school business administrator, Edward Flanagan, to solicit bids for the purchase of electronic telephone equipment for the township elementary schools.

-Approved the addition of the following to the 1984-1985 substitute lists: Teachers: Marjorie Carroll, Edward Reis and Robert Pispesky; cafeteria/playground aides: Annette Jacobs and Joann Baglietti; and pre-school aides: Virginia Cosposito, Joanne Baglietti and Maria Cirasella.

-Okayed the attendance of Mr. Flanagan at the Annual Spring Conference of the New Jersey Assn. of School Business Officials in Atlantic City from Wednesday to Friday, May 8 to 10.

-Authorized the superintendent and Board members to attend the Annual Spring Conference of the New Jersey Assn. of School Administrators and the New Jersey School Boards Assn. from Sunday to Tuesday, May 19 to 21.

-Approved the settlement agreement with Mrs. Barbara Plotkin, a teacher, negotiated by Mr. Glickman.

-Amended the date's of Mrs. Evelyn Wadenpohl's extended retirement from July 1, 1984 to Sunday, June 30, 1985 to Feb. 1, 1985 to Friday, Jan. 31, 1985 to reflect her actual date of retirement.

Kiwanis to cite Bernard Yarusavage

The Clark Kiwanis Club will sponsor a testimonial dinner-dance for Clark's former mayor, "Bernie" Yarusavage, reports George Sangiuliano, the club's president.

"Bernie was our mayor for the 12 years up to 1984, a Clark councilman for eight years and a former freeholder - he has served Union County for the past 22 years and he deserves a show of gratitude," the Clark Kiwanian added.

The dinner will be held on Thursday, May 2, at 7 o'clock at Clinton Manor Caterers at 2737 Rte. 22, W. Union.

The dinner-dance tickets are \$30 per person, which includes a cocktail hour (hot and cold hors d'oeuvres).

Township seniors get pressure check

Blood pressure testing for senior citizens as a free community service by Multi-Care will take place on Thursday, March 14, between 1 and 5 p.m. at the senior citizen center of Brewer School on Westfield Ave., Clark.

Multi-Care will also conduct free blood pressure testing for senior citizens of Clark at its medical center at 1445 Ranian Rd. starting in April at no cost to senior citizens as a community service project of Multi-Care.

Literature such as telephone stickers will be given to each senior citizen of Clark on March 14.

Peter M. Campana, the director of the department of senior citizen affairs, will be the co-ordinator of this service. He may be telephoned at home at 382-1401 or at his office at 388-4323.

Hopefuls told release dates

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE TUESDAY, APRIL 2, BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS.

The Rahway News Record and The Clark Patriot will publish their pre-election advance issues on THURSDAY, MARCH 28.

All biographies and/or pictures of the candidates which they would like to appear in the advance issues should be in the hands of the editor at 219 Central Ave., Rahway, N.J. 07065 NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, MARCH 21 AT 5 P.M.

FURTHERMORE, ALL CANDIDATES OR THOSE WRITING ON ISSUES WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO ONE- AND-A-HALF-PAGE NEWS RELEASES-TYPED AND TRIPLE

SPACED-PER WEEK DURING THE CAMPAIGN.

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, MARCH 14 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH 21 EDITION.

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE DEADLINES, except in the case of an election cancellation, in which event the editor will have complete discretion as to which deadlines to impose and he will decide which material to use.

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



HERE'S TO THE WINNER...Carl Kumpf School of Clark seventh grader, Paul Candon, receives congratulations from, left to right, Michael Dudek, a member of the Clark Board of Education; Walter Boright, "America, My Heritage" co-ordinator, and Clark Board of Education member, James Kehoe. The student was the first-place winner in the school's annual "Know the Presidents Contest" held Feb. 25.



KNOWING THEIR PRESIDENTS...Walter Boright is shown with the six finalists in Clark's annual Carl Kumpf School "Know the Presidents Contest." They are, left to right, Kevin Fazendiro, Lisa Mull and Joseph Loong; back row, Jo Ferrigno, Paul Candon and Joanne Goldberg.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE...Members of the "America, My Heritage" group who helped Walter Boright, center, back row, organize the "Know the Presidents Contest", shown left to right are: Christine Kjelsaa, Merri Kuznetsov, Laura MacAvoy and Howard Austrager; back row, Joseph Grande, Suzanne Sabath, Craig Chern, Kristin Von St. Paul and Lisa Mitchell.

Kumpf students play 'Mail to Chiefs'

The Fifth Annual "Know the Presidents Contest" was held at the Carl Kumpf School in Clark on Feb. 15.

Walter Boright's "America, My Heritage" group conducted the program to pay tribute to the contributions of our chief executives. It was the culminating event in a school-wide competition involving the entire student body.

At the preliminary level students were required to recite the names of all 40 presidents. Social studies teachers chose two students from each class to represent their class in the semi-

finals. These students were: Grade six, Jennifer Barzolate, Kristine Barto, Scott Clarke, Denise DeBenedictis, Kevin Fazendiro, David Iker, Janice Jordan, Stacy Mahan, Lisa Mull, Susan Nobile, Heather Robinson, and Kristin Von St. Paul.

Grade seven, Paul Candon, Luciana Cicala, Mark DiGennaro, Jo Ferrigno, Ilene Fink, Jeffrey Jadro, Lori Lombardi, Theresa Lobb, Dana Mariano, Sheri Santos, Jennifer Trammann and Chad Williams, and grade eight,

Scott Anger, Debbie Broccoli, Susan Cerasa, Joseph Dancs, Karen Dashevsky, David Flammia, Joanne Goldberg, Marissa Hnat, Mindy Katz, Joseph Loong, Keith Medvedich, Steven Monek, Jennifer Olzewski, Karen Schonthal, Stacy Stewart and Christina Zavolas.

The next stage of the contest was conducted to determine the two best competitors from each grade level. These students were required to know detailed information about the lives and administrations of the 40 presidents. The six finalists were: Kevin Fazendiro, and Lisa Mull grade six; Paul Candon and Jo Ferrigno, grade seven, and Joanne Goldberg and Joseph Loong, grade eight.

These six finalists met each other in the final competition for the school-wide championship in a special assembly. Master of ceremonies, Craig Chern, introduced the judges as follows: Michael Dudek and James Kehoe, members of the Clark Board of Education; principal, David M. Hart and William Norris, Mrs. Barbara Russ and Mrs. Sharon Bieszard, Kumpf School faculty members.

Following the students' recitations members of the "America, My Heritage" panel posed questions to the competitors such as: "Who was the first President of the United States to actually be born in the United States?" Answer: Martin Van Buren. "Which President is known as the Great Communicator?" Answer: Ronald Reagan.

Other questions about the Presidents' accomplishments, records, and terms of office were answered by the contestants.

An electronic buzzer system set up by faculty member, Al Smith, enabled students to be recognized with split-second accuracy.

When all the questions were completed, seventh grader, Paul Candon, was declared the winner. He was awarded a certificate and a \$20 bill by Mr. Boright. Joanne Goldberg and Jo Ferrigno placed second and third.

This annual program was developed by Mr. Boright to help students gain a greater appreciation of our American heritage and to instill in them an extra measure of patriotism, he reported.



FOR THEIR COUNTRY...Ladies of the John L. Ruddy Auxiliary No. 7363 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Clark present the book, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," to the Clark Public Library director, Miss Grace T. O'Connor. They are, left, Rita Toto, Auxiliary president, and right, Chris Morrell, chairwoman of Americanism in the Auxiliary.

