

MR. SUDALE
1403 WOODBRIDGE COMMONS WAY
ISELIN NJ 08830

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School Board adopts \$6 million budget

By R.R. Faszczewski

Before a packed house at the administration building on Schindler Rd. the Clark Board of Education March 12 adopted a total gross school budget for 1985-1986 of \$6,095,848.

On the two sections of the tab to be placed on the Tuesday, April 2, School Board election ballot the vote was 7 to 2 in favor of the current-expense tax levy, with James Kehoe and John Dillon voting against it, and the vote on the capital outlay portion of \$199,950 was 8 to 1 with only Mr. Kehoe dissenting. In a presentation on the budget the secretary of the elementary Board and school business administrator, H. Edward Flanagan, pointed out the budget includes the further reduction of staff by six teachers, it maintains all courtesy busing practices and the tab is at the state "CAP" limit on spending following Board cuts of \$340,000.

He added the Clark homeowner's tax bill ranked 14th out of 21 communities in Union County in 1984, the total audited district school expenditure ranked eighth out of 20 county districts in 1983-1984 and within a state-wide audited field of 147 similar socio-economic communities in 1983-1984 Clark ranked 124th for capital expense, 44th for current expense and 39th for the combination of current expense, capital outlay and debt service.

Commenting on the budget, Superintendent of Schools Dr. John T. Farinella called the 1985-1986 tab, "a sincere effort to provide for the children of Clark a maximum educational advantage at minimal cost."

Explaining the various programs of study in the Clark elementary schools, Dr. Farinella praised the courses involving micro-computers and said he regretted the program could not be expanded this year to every grade level.

He noted the township's schools were getting older and would need repair as the need for care arose.

Mr. Flanagan outlined the work to be done with capital outlay funds.

He said energy-conserving windows would be installed on Valley Road school's eastern wing, similar to those already on the western wing; doors which are corroding would have to be replaced; the cafeteria windows would have to be painted and repaired and plumbing and heating pipes which are wearing out will have to be replaced.

Other capital outlay worked outlined by the administrator included: infrared detection work to see if the Frank K. Henly School roof needs replacing, the installation of a second-backup-boiler at the school at a cost of \$85,000, the replacement of window screening devices on the southern end of the school to keep it cool in warm weather, the updating of inadequate lighting on the second floor and repair of the parking lots, floor tiles and mezzanine walkways.

At the Carl H. Kumpf School, according to Mr. Flanagan, the installation of a three-way burner on the boiler to allow for the use of gas would boost efficiency by approximately 70 percent.

He added the addition of a second hot water heater because of Kumpf's use as a middle school, at a cost of \$20,000, would be paid for in a little more than four years and the administration building would need such items as a new roof, painting and brick facing.

The secretary noted the total budget was a 7.48 percent boost over the last fiscal year, current expense was up 4.1 percent and capital outlay was being increased 3.4 percent.

He added the 1985-1986 budget was only the second one in a decade in which the school body has asked for capital outlay expenditures and debt service would decrease this year.

Mr. Flanagan also noted after the township's revaluation is completed and if the 1984 tax rate of \$1.63 per \$100 of assessed valuation becomes 69¢ then the anticipated rate for 1985 would be 73¢ per hundred.

He added in 1985 the average home in Clark is valued at about \$144,000 and this average home

would pay nearly \$832 for local school taxes, an increase of \$82 per year of \$6.83 per month, of which almost \$40 will be accounted for by a one-time, non-recurring expenditure for buildings and grounds.

It was also pointed out 10 years ago it took 44 percent of tax dollars to support local education in the township, whereas last year it only took 34 percent.

Responding to questions from the audience, the superintendent of schools said the staff cuts would include three classroom teachers, and one each of the speech, home economics and music teachers.

He told Linda Sagar of 750 Old Raritan Rd. there would be no major cut in

programs, although there would be some curtailment and changes in scheduling and a cut in remedial efforts in correcting speech deficiencies in the classroom.

Peter Smith of 207 Dorset Dr. said cutting out the speech teacher would cut down on the educational progress of children. However, Board president, Thomas Faria, warned if the budget were to be defeated it could possibly mean cuts in transportation and home economics, more cuts in speech classes and larger class sizes.

Saying some of the programs now in the schools could be better done by parents, Mr. Kehoe said one of the reasons he was voting against the budget was the table of organization was not constructed efficiently enough.

He did, however, say the school system could use more instruction in the use of computers.

Board member, Mrs. Thelma Purdy, said up until this year the people who feel children are the top priority in the schools have not come out to budget hearings.

She added how that they came out to the hearing they should support the budget and make their voices heard even if it means running for the Board itself.

Mr. Dillon, however, called the defeat of budgets in the past part of the democratic process, citing the fact that voting in School Board elections had gone from 5 to 6 percent to 10 to 11 percent of registered voters in recent years.

He added the settlement of a teacher contract to allow for 8 to 8.5 percent increases in salaries this year was overly generous.

Disputing Mr. Dillon, Board member, F. Donald Paris, said the settlement with the teachers had been both reasonable and fair.

Calling the budget "equipped to pass," Mr. Faria called the table of organization and the class size sufficient to meet the present program needs.

Board member, Mrs. Marie Soyka, calling the budget a compromise, said it was, however, realistic and the budget question was one of education versus dollars.

She added she was proud of the efforts of the staff in bringing quality to education to Clark.

Franks questions budget priorities

"Over the past few weeks we have heard the budget plans of the Reagan administration," commented Assemblyman Bob Franks, who represents Clark.

These plans include increasing defense spending and cutting many domestic programs, he pointed out. Assemblyman Franks noted, "Many analysts have observed neither the south nor the west took their fair share of proposed cuts, and the burden has fallen disproportionately on the northeast and midwest to bear the brunt of the deficit-reduction measures. While I welcome efforts to reduce the deficit, I want to see all Americans equally bear the burden. The problem may be many of the administration's appointees understand the importance of many programs to the west and south, but don't understand the necessity of other programs to the northeast and midwest."

The proposed budget calls for the elimination of subsidies for Amtrak, cutting funds for the operation and capital costs of local transit operations, cutting funds for waste-water treatment (sewer) programs, and eliminating the Small Business Administration.

According to officials at New Jersey Transit the proposed cuts would mean a 56 percent reduction in the capital budget, a loss of \$99 million, which is 62 percent of that budget. Of more immediate concern would be the loss of \$44 million from the operating budget, about 10 percent of the total.

The assemblyman noted, "The cut in the operating budget would necessitate a 20 percent increase in fares. After all the money that has been spent fixing up the Morris and Essex lines, it would be a shame if ridership declined due to increased fares even before everyone knew about the improvements that have been made. We need to pro-

vide ridership, not reduce it by raising fares. With increased ridership on the Morris and Essex lines, we are getting commuters off the highways, helping to reduce pollution and congestion. Putting more cars on the local roads will not be good for this area."

"Waste-water programs are as important to this area as irrigation projects are to the west. Mass transit programs, benefitting thousands of commuters in this district are as important as the interstate highways which developed in the west. The military budget, which is spent for the most part outside the northeast, must undergo scrutiny equal to that of all other departments of the government," the legislator said.

"Both of our area's Congressional representatives, Matthew Rinaldo of the Seventh District and Dean Gallo of the 11th District have asked President Ronald Reagan to reconsider the cuts due to their disproportionate damage to New Jersey. Both representatives agree with me we are willing to share the burden, but not bear it alone. I hope the President and his advisors will come to agree with us as the budget makes its way through Congress, the lawmaker concluded.

Dr. Ortenzi makes school reins July 1

By R.R. Faszczewski

As of Monday, July 1 the man who has been superintendent of schools in the Clark elementary school district for the past 13 years, Dr. John T. Farinella, will no longer be at the helm.

Dr. Farinella, who has decided to retire, will be replaced by Dr. Paul Ortenzi, who has been the superintendent of schools in North Haledon since 1981.

He previously served, at various times, as acting superintendent and acting Board of Education secretary in North Haledon. Dr. Ortenzi was a middle school principal in North Haledon, and has taught every grade from

kindergarten to high school in both North Haledon and in Woodbridge, where he was employed from 1966 to 1978.

He holds a doctorate in education from Rutgers University, a master's degree from the University of Dayton and a bachelor's degree from Newark State College, now Kean College of New Jersey, in Union.

Clark Board of Education members March 12 voted unanimously to appoint Dr. Ortenzi to the township post, after narrowing the choice down from 110 replies to advertisements and 74 actual applicants to eight actually recommended for review by the entire school body.

Recreation center to open Fridays

The Clark Recreation Center (Brewer School), on Westfield Ave., will be open on Fridays, March 22 and 28, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The games room will include regulation pool, shuffle board, air hockey, ping pong and other table games. One gymnasium will be available for open play and the other gymnasium will be available for roller skating.

Children from seven to 12 years old will skate from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and those 13 years and older will skate from 8 to 9:30 p.m. A fee of \$1 will be charged for roller skating and participants must provide their own skates.

The recreation center activities are for Clark residents only, reports Tom Dunn, director of recreation.

LEARN to hold update on anorexia

In the past few years we have often heard or read about anorexia. Update information on this disease will be offered by the League for the Education and Advancement of Registered Nurses in All States residing in New Jersey.

This continuing education lecture, to be held at All Saints Episcopal Church Hall on Monday, March 25 at 7:45 p.m., will be presented by Sheila Lenahan, a registered nurse with a bachelor's degree who is a clinical dietitian specialist in pediatric medicine at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Betty Roman arranged the program, which has been approved by the New Jersey State Nurses Assn. The non-member registration fee is \$5. A student nurse discount is allowed.

A group of LEARN, Inc. members toured the dialysis unit on March 4 at Alexian Brothers Hospital in Elizabeth. A review of the current dialysis equipment, medications, signs and symptoms and a client's personal experiences were presented to the nurses.

Anyone wishing information on LEARN, Inc. and its activities may telephone 232-5461 or 464-8333 (after 8 p.m.) or write LEARN, Inc., Post Office Box 6, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.



WELCOME ABOARD...Lt. Anton Danco, left, the deputy director of emergency management and the watch commander of the Clark Police Dept. and director of emergency management, John DeFilippo, right, welcome new members of the emergency management team, John Melander, second from left, and Joel Stoddard. Both new members will attend a six-week training course at Union County College.



FOR JOB WELL DONE...On March 4 a presentation was made to Roger Hartmiller, second from left, for his 12 years of faithful service as Clark's director of emergency management. The emergency management department, previously known as Civil Defense and the auxiliary police department, is made up of volunteers who assist the police department in times of man-made and natural disasters. At the presentation ceremonies, left to right, are: John DeFilippo, the new director of emergency management; Chief Anthony Smar of the Clark Police Dept., and Lt. Anton Danco, the deputy director of emergency management and watch commander of the Clark Police Dept.

More Clark offices move to Brewer

Clark Mayor George G. Nucera announced the relocation of the township offices of the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and the Dept. of Shade Tree to the former Charles H. Brewer School on Westfield Ave.

Hopefuls told release dates

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE TUESDAY, APRIL 2, BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS. The Railway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will publish their pre-election advance issues on THURSDAY, MARCH 28.

Spaced-per week during the campaign

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.

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Clark Library to sponsor Book Bingo
A spokeswoman for the Clark Public Library invited boys and girls in grades three to six to play Book Bingo on Thursday, March 28 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Book Bingo is Bingo played with book titles instead of numbers. Prizes will be awarded to winners. Registration is not required.