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Clark Patriot

'A Voice for All, an Echo for None'

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School enrollment to stabilize over five years

By R.R. Faszczewski

Unlike the trend in the last five years, during which enrollment in the township's elementary schools dropped from 1,408 in 1980 to 1,179 in 1984, the 1985 long-range facilities master plan says enrollment over the five years from 1985 to 1989 will remain fairly stable with only slight increases and decreases.

The report, prepared by Kiernan Associates of Cinnaminson, was adopted on Sept. 23 by a unanimous vote of the Clark Board of Education.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul J. Ortenzio explained it was a guide to help the district ensure the safety of its buildings and continue its preventive maintenance program.

The enrollment figures, which are projections developed using the Cohort Survival Ratio method by applying the computer program published by the Minnesota Educational Computer Consortium, show 1,152 students in 1985, 1,143 in 1986, 1,146 in 1987, 1,135 in 1988 and 1,160 in 1989.

According to the projections the biggest changes should come in the first and eighth grades, with enrollment in the first grade dropping from 121 to 94 over the period and that in eighth grade going from 152 to 130.

The report also points out from 1980 to 1984 kindergarten-to-eighth-grade enrollment dropped by 18 percent and, "The 1984 level represents the low point of a decline in enrollment that appears to have begun as early as 1970. In the 15-year period from 1970 to 1984 enrollment declined from 2,867 to 1,142, a loss of over 1,725 students or over 60 percent."

It adds, "The projected low kindergarten enrollments in 1988 and 1989 tend to depress the total enrollment levels for those two years. The kindergarten levels indicated reflect the unusually low number of births five years prior to each of these years. Further, the kindergarten enrollment for 1989 is projected on the basis of an estimated number of births in 1984. When actual data for 1984 becomes available the projected kindergarten enrollment should be reviewed."

Although the reports says all of the district's facilities are exceptionally well maintained and the facilities will be able to continue to more than adequately support the educational program, it does make some recommendations for improvements.

For example, the Frank K. Hehnly School will need heating, ventilation or air conditioning work immediately and roof replacement, electrical system work, patching, plastering or painting; site development, window replacement, replacement of floor tile and repair of blacktop in the next five years.

The Carl H. Kumpf Middle School will need plumbing system work immediately and heating, ventilation or air conditioning work; patching, plastering or painting; site development, door hardware and concrete steps within the next five years.

The Valley Road School will need patching, painting or plastering and window replacement immediately and heating, ventilation or air conditioning work; electrical system work, patching, plastering or painting; site development, parking and door, ceiling and carpet replacement in the next five years.

District priorities on the work, some of which starting in July of this year, and the costs involved follow: Valley Road window replacement, July 1985, $34,300; new boiler at Hehnly, July, 1985, $85,000; hot water heater at Kumpf, July, 1985, $22,500; Valley Road, all to start in July, 1986, replace doors, $2,400, replace ceiling and lights, $500, replace carpet, $3,000, install soffit and fascia, $500, and painting, $900.

Also, Hehnly, all to start next July, site work, $3,250, replace ceiling and light fixture, $3,800, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, $1,500, replace the sunscreen, $2,400, replace floor tiles, $2,100 and painting, $1,650.

At Kumpf, also to start next July, replace door hardware and frame, $5,650, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, $21,600, concrete repairs, $1,900, and new blacktop, $600.

Work to start in July, 1987 includes: Painting and patching at Hehnly, $5,600; at Kumpf, painting and patching, $11,700, heating, ventilation and air conditioning, $2,900, drapes, $2,500, chimney cap, $600, and lavatory mirrors, $500, and in all schools, painting and patching to be paid for in 1988-1989 and in 1989-1990, $3,000.

The 1985 work comes out of the 1985-1986 budget, the 1986 work out of the 1986-1987 budget and the 1987 work out of the 1987-1988 budget.

Board members also heard a presentation on the 1984-1985 district objectives by Mrs. Muriel Cassidy, curriculum coordinator, and Dr. Ortenzio.

Dr. Ortenzio explained New Jersey law requires the preparation of objectives for the ensuing school year and a report on progress in attaining those objectives.

Mrs. Cassidy noted of the five objectives, which had to be approved by the county superintendent of schools, two were carried over from the year before: The music guide was evaluated and foreign language was taught for the second year.

The three new objectives were: Develop a problem-solving test, utilize the Houghlin-Mifflin reading test and review the social studies guide.

The curriculum coordinator added the Clark district was a leader in working with a committee made up of staff members, parents and school officials in developing its objectives--this was an outgrowth of the family living committee which helped develop the curriculum in that field.

There is also a new health guide and health tests have been developed for the third to eighth grades, along with a nutrition poster contest conducted in conjunction with ARA Food Services, in which the students had input into the cafeteria system.

In language arts the district is putting more emphasis on writing skills and is doing holistic scoring on writing tests-grading compositions based on the entire piece of work rather than just grammar, punctuation and spelling-the system is in use in the Union County Regional High School District No. 1, where Clark students attend high school.

Responding to questions from Board members, Mrs. Cassidy said if the objectives are not attained the committee asks if the objectives are fair and equitable to the children and do they accomplish what the school district wants.

The evaluation is done by observation of teachers and students to see what revisions are needed, she concluded.

Patriot mail now at Brewer

The Clark Patriot makes mail pickups at the Clark Municipal Building on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings.

Since the municipal government has moved its offices to the former Charles H. Brewer School on Westfield Ave., across the street from the former municipal building, a mail slot has been provided for the newspaper at that facility.

THE THREE CLARK PATRIOT PICKUPS OF ANY MATERIALS TO GO INTO THE NEWSPAPER OR ANY COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE STAFF OF THE PAPER WILL BE MADE AT BREWER SCHOOL ONLY. THERE WILL BE NO MORE PICKUPS AT THE CLARK POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN THE FORMER MUNICIPAL BUILDING.

RIGHT IN TUNE ... On Sept. 10 Frank Cannella from City Music Center, rear, presented an instrumental music demonstration to the third, fourth and fifth-grade students at Frank K. Hehnly School in Clark. In addition to introducing and demonstrating those instruments in the band program, Mr. Cannella randomly selected students with no instrumental background to participate in a band.

The following, shown, left to right, were selected: Martha Vazquez, fifth grade, conductor; Brett Ashley, fifth grade, flute; William Koeplier, third grade, trumpet; Jill Margulies, fifth grade, trombone; Tara Brophy, fifth grade, alto sax, and Anthony Sena, third grade, clarinet.

Mother Seton School plans open house

Mother Seton Regional High School, Valley Rd., Clark, New Jersey will hold an informal open house on Wednesday evening, October 9 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for all Seventh and Eighth grade girls and their parents. The program will be informational and enjoyable for girls who are planning to enter high school in the near future.

Parents and students will have an opportunity to tour the school, examine the curricular and co-curricular programs, investigate transportation, and meet with administration, guidance and faculty members.

Visiting students will experience life at Mother Seton Regional High School through contacts with students in various activities within the school. New time schedules, new uniforms, and expanded computer activities will be of special interest to students.

An informal social will follow at which parents and daughters may mingle with faculty and students of Mother Seton Regional High School, which is located at Parkway Exit 125, in Clark, New Jersey.

Voter registration

Voter registration will be held at the clerk's office, located at 430 Westfield Ave., (formerly Brewer School, Room 28), Clark, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, Friday, Oct. 4 and Monday, Oct. 7, 1985 which is the last day to register if you desire to vote in the General Election in November.

Hopefuls told release dates

ATTENTION: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE TUESDAY, NOV. 5, GENERAL ELECTION AND THOSE WISHING TO COMMENT ON CANDIDATES AND ISSUES.

The Rahway News-Record and The Clark Patriot will publish their pre-election advance issues on THURSDAY, OCT. 31.

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, OCT. 24 AT 5 P.M.

FURTHERMORE, ALL CANDIDATES OR THOSE WRITING ABOUT ELECTION CONTROVERSIES WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF TWO ONE-AND-A-HALF PAGE SUBMISSIONS, 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, OCT. 17 FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OCT. 24 EDITION.

EACH PIECE OF ELECTION-RELATED COPY SUBMITTED MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PROPERLY NOTARIZED AFFIDAVIT. THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT THE PAPERS' OFFICES.

THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NOT EXCEPTION TO THE DEADLINES. IN THE CASE OF AN ELECTION CANCELLATION THE EDITOR WILL DECIDE WHICH DEADLINES TO IMPOSE AND WHICH MATERIAL TO USE.

CHAMPIONS OF WORLD ... The Clark American Legion Little Leaguers, who finished their baseball season with 18 wins and only three losses, became the World Series champions by beating the Policemen's Benevolent Assn. team in their division and beat the fire department to become the Little League champions in Clark. Leading the American Legion team to their victorious season were Manager Ken Bierstein and Coach Joey Jacober. On Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 8 o'clock the champions will be at the L'Affaire on Rte; No. 22, Mountainside to enjoy a dinner with their parents, sponsors and other Little Leaguers. They will receive their awards and will also have the opportunity to meet and hear New York Yankees first baseman, Don Mattingly, the guest speaker for the evening.

Regional gets $30,000 extra in aid

The receipt of $100,150 in federal funds earlier this month under the federal Education Consolidation and Improvement Act Sept. 18 forced the Union County Regional High School District No. 1 Board of Education, which governs Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark, to change the budget appropriations section of its 1985-1986 budget for that category from $79,266 to $100,150.

The school body had estimated its aid receipts at the lower figure.

Board approval was also given for Eric Parsons of Clark to participate in a full-year program in electronics/communications at the Union County Vocational School during the current school year at a cost of $840.

The recommendation was made by Stanley Grossman, director of industrial arts, home economics and vocational education for the regional district.

The school body gave its permission for the hiring of Joseph Marzullo, a former district industrial arts teacher who retired in 1982, as a temporary substitute teacher for William Solimine, who will be absent for about three weeks due to recent surgery.

Named assistant girls soccer coach at Johnson at a stipend of $1,572 was Susan Skidmore.

Lisa Jakub, a physical education major at Kean College of New Jersey in Union, was given education body permission to do her student teaching under Betty Linaberry at Johnson from Monday, March 31 to Friday, May 30 of next year.

Named fall intramurals coach at the township school at a stipend of $595 was Jack Malkos.

The following staff members were approved to teach early-morning Scholastic Aptitude Test and Chem Study courses at the stipends listed at Johnson for the first semester: Douglas Felter, $1,779; Herman Simmeth, $2,779; John Aragona, $875, and Harry Cardinale, $743.

Board approval was given for the following teachers to participate in a basic skills computation workshop at $11 per hour for the number of hours listed: William Jones, 30 hours; Theresa Arico, 25 hours; Mary Hamfeldt, 25 hours; William Puglisi, 25 hours, and Dorothy Ries, 10 hours.

School body members also okayed a 1985-1986 joint transportation agreement with the Union County Educational Services Commission for 20 students to various schools around the county at a total annual cost of $100,798.10.

The Board also accepted $2,200 under the Education for Economic Security Act for mathematics and science teacher in-service and retraining in the use of computers and computer programs and $1,816 in Vocational School Year Work Study Funding for 1985-1986.

UNICOs ready for bowl game

On Saturday, Oct. 5 at 1 p.m. at Clark's Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School field Clark UNICO in conjunction with Springfield UNICO will host the Second Annual Clark-Springfield UNICO Bowl Game between Johnson Regional and Jonathan Dayton Regional High Schools.

Presentation of the UNICO trophy will be made to the winning team after the game. The victors will retain the UNICO trophy until the next rematch.

HELP US CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAY

Clark's own hometown newspaper, The Clark Patriot, is 20 years young this year and the paper plans to celebrate in real style.

We are looking for stories, photographs, proclamations or historical pieces about the newspaper and the township and we are asking our readers to help make this a banner year for the only newspaper Clark can really call its own.

A special anniversary edition will be published in October.

If you have any contributions please send them to: ANNIVERSARY ISSUE, EDITOR, THE CLARK PATRIOT, POST OFFICE BOX 1061, RAHWAY, N.J. 07065 or drop them off at the office at 219 CENTRAL AVE., RAHWAY FROM 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. MONDAY TO FRIDAY.