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Busing cut saved 3 jobs

Parents stage bus protest

Budget calls for cuts in 'courtesy busing'

by Pat DiMaggio

More than 60 parents of non-public school children attended last week's meeting of the Rahway Board of Education to protest the board's decision to discontinue "courtesy busing."

The board is asking voters to support their 1989-90 budget when they go to the polls in the April 4 school election, and busing for non-

public school children who fall below the state guidelines was one of the cuts made to bring the budget in line.

Present board policy for public and non-public students offers busing for students in grades K-6 who live more than 1 mile from school, busing for students in grades 7 and 8 who live more than 2 miles from school and

busing for grades 9-12 for students who live more than 2-1/2 miles from school.

Starting in September, busing will stay the same for public school children, according to Business Administrator Anthony Rocco, Jr., and for grades 7 and 8. The change will be for non-public students in grades K-6 who will be bused only according to state guidelines

when they live more than 2 miles from school.

The change in the busing policy will affect children in St. Mary's School in Rahway, St. John the Apostle and St. Agnes in Clark and St. John Vianney in Colonia.

"Many of the parents who attended the meeting and spoke to the board were unaware that the cut in busing had already been approved

with the adoption of the budget.

"As catholic school parents, we are remiss in not paying attention to what the Board of Education is doing," said Karen Pribush, the parent of a child who attends St. John Vianney School in Colonia. "We have allowed you to spend our tax money the way you see fit."

"We rely on bus services on dangerous roadways," said Brian Madden. "Some people use their automobiles to get to work. You

must consider the safety of the children."

Betty Burnett, the mother of a child who attends Madison School, said the board was correct in discontinuing courtesy busing in the face of the elimination of 10 positions in the budget. "The educational part of my tax dollar should be spent on educational programs," said Burnett. "It was your choice to send your child to a parochial school, transportation should also be your responsibility. Money

should be spent for education and not transportation."

The budget originally included the elimination of 10 positions, but the board voted to utilize the \$71,500 used for courtesy busing to reduce that number to 7. The \$21.3 million budget is an increase of 11.5 percent over the current year. Rocco said figures for the projected tax increase were unavailable because he had not yet received the new tax rate under the recent re-evaluation of property in the City.



ARTS CENTER BREAKFAST... Shown above are several of the community leaders of Rahway who attended a special breakfast meeting for the Arts Center. From the left, Jerry Bongiovanni, Angostura Bitters; Eric Rickes, President of the Union County Arts Center; Daniel L. Martin, Mayor of the City of Rahway and Alan Gardiner, Merck & Co. V.P. of Governmental Relations/Public Affairs.

Breakfast meeting reveals arts center funds need

Mayor Daniel L. Martin and members of the Union County Arts Center Board of Directors conducted a special breakfast meeting with several community leaders for the purpose of discussing the status of the Arts Center.

The breakfast was hosted by Merck & Company on March 27, and the audience consisted of Rahway Chamber of Commerce and Rahway Kiwanis members. Those in attendance included Chamber President James Kennedy and Kiwanis President Richard Vossler.

The invited guests heard presentations from a panel of speakers including Mayor Martin, Board President Eric Rickes, Merck V.P. of Governmental Relations/Public Affairs Alan Gardiner and Daniel Johnson, Fund-Raiser for the Arts Center. The panel was moderated by Thomas E. Connell, the City's Director of Community Development.

The panel indicated that the Arts Center is enjoying strong success, particularly in terms of renovations to the building. Contracts totaling over \$400,000 have been let for a new roof, marquee, restrooms, stage riggings, and sidewalks. Additionally, the Center is applying for funds to complete the renovation of the theater's auditorium, stage and dressing rooms in the near future.

Mr. Rickes indicated that the Board has been focusing on the capital/renovation

side of the picture but is now turning its attention to production of shows and operating an Arts Center on a daily basis. He stressed the fact that there is "an urgent need for donations to the operating budget, since, with the theater closed for renovations, there is a major drop in revenues due to lack of shows."

The Rahway Board of Education is currently investigating the possibility of revising the previously approved cut-off age requirement date from September 1 to October 1 for Pre-School and Kindergarten children. The current age requirements are as follows:

- Children eligible to register for Pre-School must be four years of age by September 1 for the 1989-90 school year.
- Children eligible to register for Kindergarten must be five years of age by December 31 for the 1989-90 school year.

Since the registration period takes place before the Board will be able to take formal action on the new recommended date, registrations will be accepted using the October 1 date for Pre-School children. Registration for age-eligible Pre-School and

NJEA calls for postponed budget vote

At the request of NJEA, Assemblyman Joe Palaia will introduce legislation to push the April 4 budget election date to early May.

"This action is absolutely necessary if we are to have any chance of resolving the serious state aid problem facing our schools," announced NJEA President Dennis Giordano. "School districts throughout the state face a no-win situation if they are forced to bring their budgets before their communities on April 4. The lack of necessary funding to our public schools will force school boards into a corner."

School boards reportedly have two choices: increase the local property tax burden and possibly condemn many budgets to defeat, or severely cut programs that are vital to a thorough and efficient education. "NJEA believes that more time is needed for the Governor and the Legislative leadership to come together to resolve the issues at hand," said Giordano.

NJEA praised Palaia for his leadership and understanding of the crisis facing public education in N.J.

City to flush hydrants in wee hours

The City of Rahway, Division of Water, will start its spring Hydrant Flushing Program on Monday, April 3. It is expected that the flushing procedures will take four to six weeks.

Time of flushing will be from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. daily to minimize traffic interruptions and to prevent discolored water to customers during normal daily usage. Customers drawing water during this time period can expect discolored water if they are in the flushing area.

Services held for 2 RHS alumni lost in storm

Memorial services were held Tuesday and Wednesday respectively for John M. Kuba and Albert Lawson III, both Rahway High School graduates (class of '70), who are presumed to have drowned in Round Valley Reservoir in Clinton Township when the small boat from which they were fishing was apparently capsized in a storm. As of this Tuesday, their remains had not been found.

See today's obituary page for biographical details.

Board of Ed candidates address public forum

Four candidates vie for three seats

by Pat DiMaggio

Voters will be asked to choose from four candidates for three seats on Rahway's Board of Education when they go to the polls in the school's election on April 4. One candidate is also running unopposed for a one-year unexpired term.

At a forum sponsored by the combined PTA/O's of Rahway held on March 20, each candidate was given the opportunity to speak on what he felt were the educational needs in the district.

Board Members Lori Kennedy and Robert Munsey filed petitions to seek another term but have since withdrawn their names from the race. Remaining candidates include one incumbent and three newcomers for the three-years seats.

Kowal
Incumbent Peter Kowal is seeking his 2nd term on the board. He is a graduate of Rahway High School and a local businessman.

Curing his tenure on the board, Kowal served as chairperson of the buildings and grounds, student relations and athletic committees. He was also a member of education finance committees.

A communicant of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Kowal serves on the board of directors of the Rahway YMCA, and is a member of the Rahway Kiwanis Club, Rahway B.P.O. Elks Lodge 1075, and currently serves as president of the Sideliners for 1988-89.

"Being a board member means an enormous time commitment," said Kowal. "You must believe in serving the needs of the community. I think my greatest asset is my accessibility to people. I have tried to stay visible in the schools and at special events."

One of the greatest needs in the district, said Kowal, is "accountability." "Spending more dollars doesn't necessarily mean a better education," he noted. "Account-

ability from supervisors down to secretaries would mean better education."

Herbert

Candidate Clarence Herbert is seeking his first term on the board and is a member and past financial secretary to the NAACP-Rahway Branch. He is also a member of the 4th Ward Citizens Committee, the Rahway Youth Soccer Association and the 4th Ward Democratic Club. He is a former Junior Achievement Coordinator.

Herbert is employed as a tax accountant and has recently passed his C.P.A. exam. "I feel that it would be a privilege to make a direct impact on family education," he said.

Herbert said he would investigate additional school base activities and would work to improve communications between the teaching staff, administration and the community. "I would like to insure that Rahway children receive the highest quality education possible considering the impact on tax increases," he said.

Kurylak

Mario Kurylak is a lifelong resident of Rahway and a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, the Roosevelt School P.T.A. and the Rahway B.P.O. Elks Lodge 1075. He is employed as an electrical contractor and is part owner of Dan-El Electric Company, Inc., located in Rahway.

"I would like to see our tax dollars spent wisely for quality education," said Kurylak. "I support education and the maintenance of our excellent curriculum throughout the system."

Kurylak said Rahway's budget, when compared to other districts in the state, was "on line" in expenditures except for supervisors salaries, an area he promised to investigate if elected. He also stressed the importance of working to improve stand-

ardized test scores and HSPT scores.

Ludington

John C. Ludington II is also a lifelong resident of Rahway and a graduate of Rahway High. He is employed by the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority as the Supervisor of Municipal and Industrial Relations.

Ludington is a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Madison School P.T.A., the Rahway Youth Soccer Association and the Rahway B.P.O. Elks Lodge 1075.

"Our children will need someone to make the educational decisions for them," said Ludington. "Through education and participation, our children can have a common opportunity."

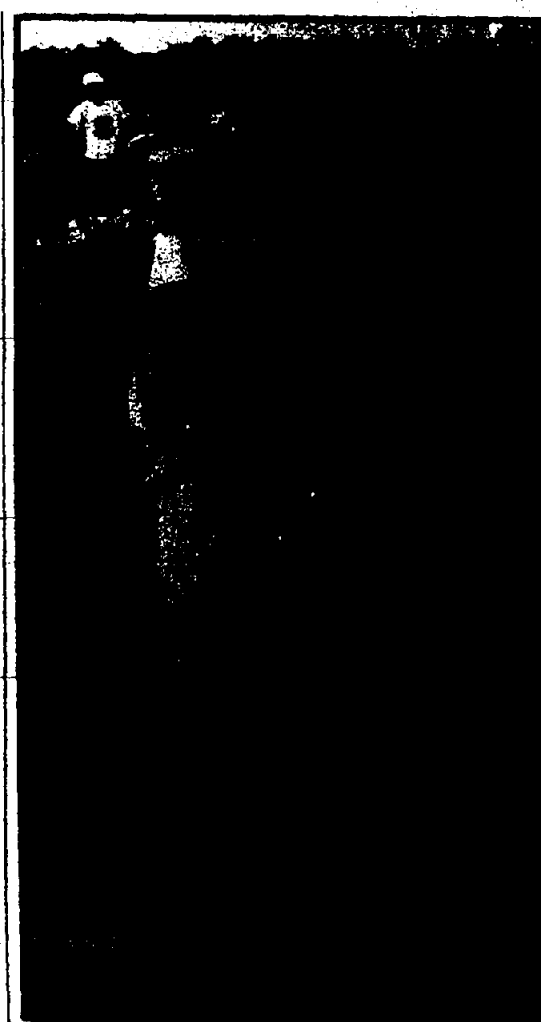
Ludington also spoke about the shortage of teachers and said it was important to find teachers who "will make sacrifices." "Professional teaching is much maligned today, they don't get enough respect."

Moran

Eugene Moran, who is running unopposed to fill the one-year unexpired term, is a graduate of Rahway High School and a member of St. Mary's Parish. He has previously been active in the Rahway CYRC Little League Baseball Club as a coach and as a committee member of Boy Scout Troop 100.

Moran is also a lifelong member of the Rahway Board of Trustees. He was employed for 30 years by Honeywell Corporation and is currently employed as a sales engineer.

"Education is important to all citizens, not just to the citizens who have children in school," said Moran. "I am comfortable with systems pertaining to schools and buildings, and I also think sports are an important benefit to any school system if kept in their proper perspective."



EASY WHEN YOU KNOW HOW... Catcher skateboarder Peanut Brown performs one of many of the skillful maneuvers that will be demonstrated at the JFK Community Center in Rahway on April 5.

Skateboard team to demonstrate at JFK Center

The Pythagorans, a youth group within Rahway's MOAB Lodge #70, F&A.M.P.H.A., has set Saturday, April 8, as the date for a skateboard demonstration by the celebrated Peanut Brown and a team of skilled skateboarders. The event will take place at 1 p.m. at the John F. Kennedy Community Center, 796 Hazelwood Ave., Rahway.

Included among the demonstrators will be "Airborne-Zorlac," an amateur skateboard team and a demo team consisting of Bud Martin, Rob Coco, and Tom Cafardo. A short feature film on skateboard safety will be shown. The admission donation is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children.

Peanut Brown, a well-known professional skateboarder, from Virginia

Beach, and the accompanying team, will bring with them the message (to the city's youth): "Say no to drugs and alcohol. Get high on skateboarding instead."

Hot dogs and soda will be sold, and a total of five Peanut Brown skateboards will be raffled on the half hour. Peanut Brown "Airborne-Zorlac" T-shirts will also be raffled.

The Pythagorean Youth Group was the result of a desire on the part of David Brown, the MOAB Lodge's Worshipful Master, to do something worthy for the City's youth during his tenure. In addition to Brown, the roster of Pythagorean advisors includes Brothers Fred Johnson, George Green, Richard Williams and Rev. Gerald Thomas.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STORY... Jim Kennedy, President of the Rahway Chamber of Commerce, is creating for businesses located in the city a new image. Kennedy is the subject of the documentary film "The Best Way for the City to Grow" which is being shown at the JFK Community Center on April 5. Kennedy is also the subject of a book "The Best Way for the City to Grow" which is being shown at the JFK Community Center on April 5. Kennedy is also the subject of a book "The Best Way for the City to Grow" which is being shown at the JFK Community Center on April 5.