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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J., THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1967

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• School Referendum

HALF MILLION CUT...NO CURE FOR DOUBLE SESSIONS

A \$3,640,000 bond issue for the expansion of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School will be placed before the voters of the school district on May 16. The referendum, the second regarding this issue, reflects 'better than' a \$300,000 reduction. Due

to the increase in construction costs over those a year ago and anticipated increases between the referendum date and the date bids are taken, a 6% increase in costs is expected. The money reduction represents a cut of approximately a half-million dollars from the

original plan. Approval of the original bond issue for \$3,950,000 was rejected by the voters last August.

The new proposed construction plans call for a single rectangular structure instead of the two circular structures that were the source of much controversy when the original plans were presented to the public. Two schools of thought developed -- one contended that the circular structures were more costly than conventional straight-wall construction and that a rectangular or square building could house the more vital aspects of the educational program without seriously altering the educational program. The other maintained that the square footage cost in the circular facilities are no more than the square footage cost in a straight-wall structure and that the circular structure offered more inner-flexibility in keeping with the educational programs they were to house.

The Board has indicated that the major reduction in the new plans is a cut of some 13,000 square feet. Size of classrooms, especially in the science area, have been reduced. The cafeteria shown on the 1966 plans has been eliminated as well as the kitchen

equipment that would have been necessary for it. Seating and square footage in the new gymnasium has been deleted. Equipment, such as an Audio-Visual system and the purchase of computers have been eliminated. The new plans retain approximately the same number of classrooms,

special rooms and teaching stations as the 1966 plans offered, and are designed to house 2,214 students.

School officials have stated that double sessions will be necessary by September, 1968. If the project is approved by the voters in May, Fred Laberge, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, estimates that final working plans and specifications, State approval, bidding and the letting of contracts will consume the greater part of a year. Actual construction time is estimated at 20 to 24 months. This tentative schedule precludes the opening of the addition until the latter part of 1969 or early 1970.

To acquaint the public with all details of the new plan, the Board of Education is planning an extensive public information program. Brochures, talks to organizations and a public hearing are being scheduled.

Plains Township Meeting

Residents In Protest Against Garbage Plan

Several irate citizens bombarded the Township Committee with questions and opinions regarding the scavenger service and rates recently made known to the public by way of a letter from the individual scavenger companies. Coming as a surprise to at least one resident was the news that there will no longer be a Spring nor a Fall clean-up in Scotch Plains. Instead, a 'further item' such as a can of grass clippings or can of clean-up materials will be removed at no extra charge on the second pick-up day of each week.

Mayor Kitsz stated that in an effort to economize and keep the tax rate down, the Committee had not budgeted for clean-up days. He pointed out that the last Spring clean-up cost the taxpayers of the Township approximately \$30,000, even though many residents did not take advantage of the service. There were also instances of abuse of the service. Licenses and ordinances pertaining to scavengers are under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health and although the Township Committee can and does make recommendations to them, they are an autonomous body and final decisions rest with them. Kitsz stated that, at the Public Hearing held last Monday with the Board of Health, only 12 residents out of a community of 23,000 people attended and were heard.

One homeowner pointed out that the clean-ups, at peak cost, had cost the taxpayers an average of \$6 per home. He contended removal of one or two items on the 'extra charge schedule' the scavengers have set up would cover that amount. Suggestion was made that the Township purchase a suitable truck and hire two men to handle clean-up of

these extra items on a year around basis.

Citing that open trucks, owned and operated by companies other than the nine licensed scavengers in Scotch Plains, brought the cost of the last Fall clean-up down to \$7,000, it was suggested that Clean-up be considered a 'package deal' and under the law that states municipal expenditures exceeding \$2,500 must be placed on open bid, contracts for clean-ups should be placed on competitive bid. This, it was contended, would restore a vital service at the lowest cost.

Another suggestion that was made by several who attended the Township meeting Tuesday was that scavenger licensing be opened. There are nine licensed scavengers serving the Township of approximately 5,500 homes, yet, one man insisted, a dissatisfied resident doesn't feel he has the choice of hiring the company he wishes to deal with.

Disposal of these items can be made at no cost through the Salvation Army or Mt. Carmel Guild another homeowner countered.

Mayor Kitsz stated that the Township Committee will bring to the Board of Health's attention those questions and suggestions that may not have been presented to that Board before. He said that the Committee will continue studying the problems of garbage disposal and clean-ups, make recommendations to the Board of Health.

Among the communications received at the April 4 meeting was a letter from the Scotch Plains Businessmen's Association. It stated, in part, that an unofficial appraisal made of the acreage that now contains the

Students Don Trustees Caps At Library Meeting

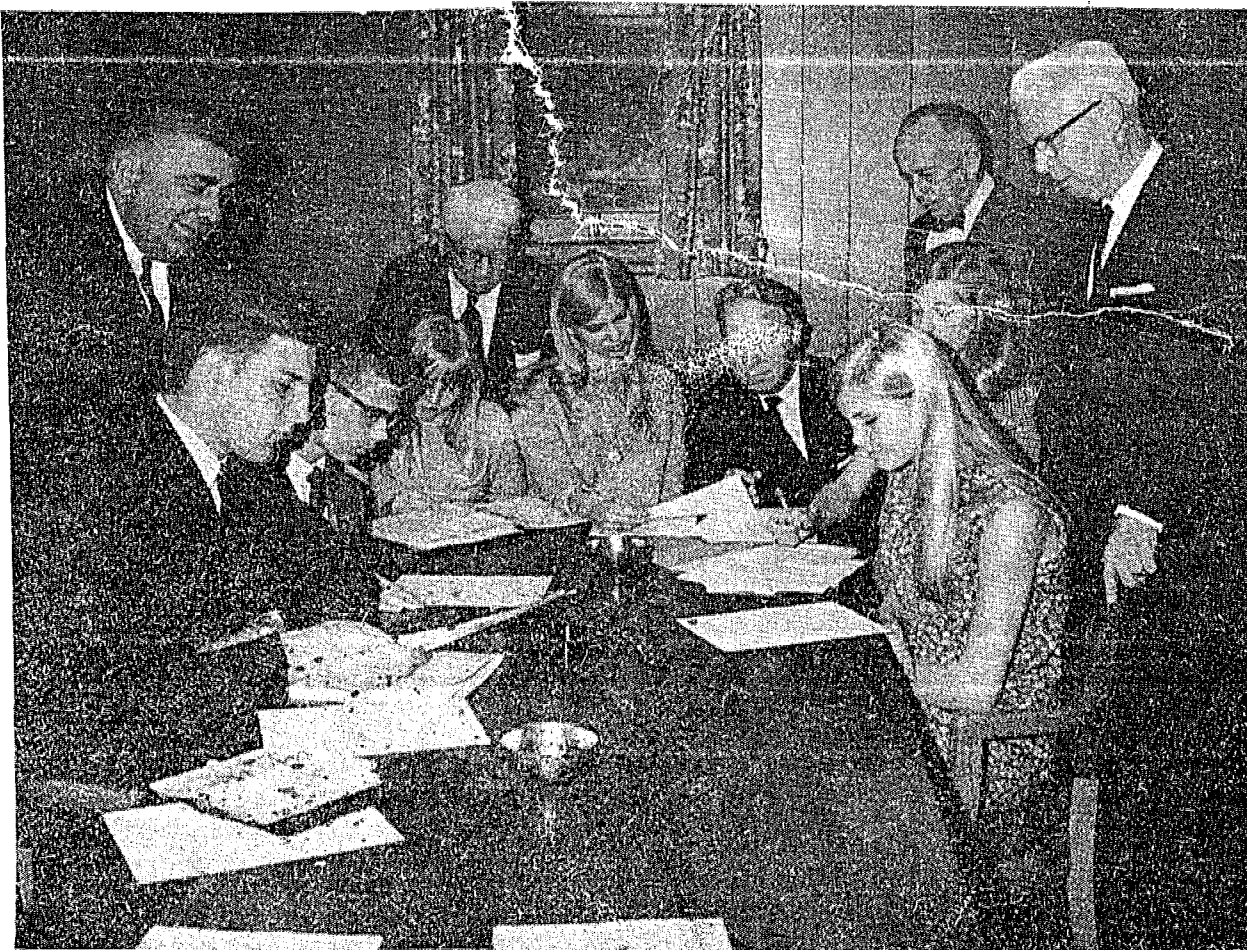
Students of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School conducted the April 3rd meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fanwood Memorial Library. Martha McNeil presided for Mr. Ralph Russell, President. Acting officers were Susan Swirblis, secretary, for Mrs. Paul W. Izant; Marylou Schlick, treasurer, for Mr. Charles T. Todd; Barbara Guzenski, building and grounds, for Mr. Carol O. Sayward. John Gotberg was acting director for Mrs. Walter J. Paltz.

Mrs. Gotberg reported that 6,125 books were circulated and 135 new books added to the collection during March. The first

quarterly statistics of 1967 show an increase of 2,770 books circulated over the corresponding period in 1966. Gifts were received from the Woman's Club of Fanwood, the Union County Kennel Club and the Plainfield Chapter of the American Red Cross. March activities included class visits, story hours and an art exhibit by Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students.

Also present were Robert Beller, acting Mayor, and Councilman Jerome Boryea.

The students are members of the Fanwood Student Government Program of the High School. Mr. John McCook is the advisor.



An air of seriousness pervades the room as students of SPFHS took over duties of the Trustees of the Fanwood Memorial Library. Seated (L-R) Robert Beller, John Gotberg, Barbara Guzenski, Martha McNeil, Mr. Ralph Russell (Board President), Susan Swirblis, Marylou Schlick. Standing (L-R) Councilman Jerome Boryea, Hon. Carl O. Sayward, Mr. Kenneth Angelman and Hon. Charles T. Todd. (Photo by Jerry P. Donnini)

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