

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 14, NO. 31

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1973

15 CENTS A COPY

Board Expected To Approve High School Lunch Program Tonite

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education anticipates establishing a new policy regarding "open lunch" at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School during tonight's meeting at Terrill Junior High School. An appeal for an "open lunch" permission was requested earlier this year, in the spring, by the Student Council at the High School but the request was denied by the Board. A new presentation has been made to the Board, representing the views of the newly elected Student Council which will be operative this year.

"Open lunch" would mean that students are able to leave the high school grounds during their lunch period. The new proposal facing the Board tonight also include an "open end" school day. "It is believed by the student body and the Student Council that an 'open campus' would best satisfy the needs of the students and the community as well," a statement supporting the proposal reads. The student statement notes, however, that hurrying into so drastic change might well have disastrous results, and therefore the change should take time and the community should be given a chance to orient themselves to such an innovative concept. The open lunch and open campus concepts are steppingstones.

Under "open lunch" a student would be permitted to leave the school premises during lunch periods, 10:45 - 1:18, with parental permission. Each student wishing to take part in the program would be required to obtain express written permission from his parent, and students without such permission would be restricted to the school area. Participants in "open lunch" would be subject to rules and regulations outlined by the school principal. The student body has researched several areas of possible objection and have submitted a report concerning each.

A. Traffic, danger to elementary school children in the area; The capacity of the school parking lot is 180 vehicles. On days when every student vehicle leaves for lunch, only 60 cars could leave during each of the

three lunch periods. Of those 60, economic reasons and practicality would bar many from leaving each day. (The lot is full to capacity only during the later months of the school year, in May and June). The peak traffic hazards occur, according to student reports, during 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. During lunch period of elementary school children, the high school report points out that numerous crossing guards are on duty.

B. Liability: The Board of Education would not be liable for students during times when they are off-campus.

C. Attendance: The student view is that students have the responsibility of getting to class on time, whether in the morning or after lunch, and it is the responsibility of the teacher to discipline students who are negligent.

D. Faculty Opinion: The entire faculty was polled before the close of school, but only 15 of the 120 questionnaires distributed were returned. On June 20, a meeting was held to discuss the issue, all faculty members were invited, and none attended. Therefore, the students question whether any significant negative faculty opinion exists.

Under the "open end" school day proposal, students would not be required to be in school until their first class, and would be permitted to leave after their last class. However, all students

Continued on page 7

Plains Citizens Will Trek To Trenton To Seek Flood Support

Over 500 signatures have been collected on a petition which will go to federal, state, county and local officials from Scotch Plains, urging immediate flood control efforts here.

Robert W. Lee, spokesman for the residents, who are primarily from the northwest section and Third Street, said a group will also go to Trenton this week to urge Governor Cahill to promote immediate action by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in channeling the Green Brook and other flood control measures.

The group, which is organized with about 100 members, held a mass petition signing on Sunday at Farley Park, which was attended by over 250 people. There are additional petitions circulating in Scotch Plains neighborhoods.

In addition to the efforts on flood control, the group seeks to obtain federal grants for flood victims, instead of only loans

from the Small Business Administration. Lee said victims just get one loan paid off when they experience another flood.

Mayor William Kitz of Scotch Plains is supporting the group efforts, and plans to have a resolution support introduced before the Council next week. Kitz and the group are urging the Union County freeholders and the County Park Commission to use floodgates at Surprise Lake near Seeley Pond as a retention area to gradually release water, avoiding heavy flooding.

Assemblymen Herbert Kiehn and Arthur Manner have indicated their support of the group's efforts to get flood control help from the state.

\$56,000 OK'd For Youth Assistance Center In Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Note To Residents

Scotch Plains has completed at least one pick-up of flood-damaged debris on the north side of the Township, and areas on the south side of town have been reached where needed.

The Township does not expect to extend the pick-up schedule after Friday, August 17.

So that the Public Property Department will know where further collection of debris is needed, residents should call the Department at 322-6700.

It is estimated that the cost of the clean-up project due to removing flood-damaged debris has cost the municipality about \$15,000.

Residents residing along Green Brook between Terrill Road and Hunter Avenue will be pleased to know that the brook has been cleared of all silt, and large deposits of it have been installed along properties fronting on St. Ann Street to curtail any further erosion of the brook banks.

Historical Society Asks Funding Aid

The Historical Society of Scotch Plains-Fanwood has approached the Fanwood Borough Council, seeking consideration for funding assistance in next year's municipal budget. The society, formed a year ago, has many members and four trustees and directors from Fanwood among its membership. As the Society president Charles Detwiller pointed out to the Fanwood Borough Council, the township of Scotch Plains has been assisting the society since its inception, providing a township building which serves as a museum, and also paying the utilities on the Cannonball House museum building on Front Street adjacent to the cannon.

The society would appreciate \$1,000 toward its operations next year. One of the primary uses for the funds would be the purchase of a projector and duplicates of the many slides now owned by society member Justus J. Agnoli. Agnoli is a Fanwood resident and has been most active in exploring the history of the local area. He has an exhaustive collection of documents, slides, etc., and has shared this knowledge with old and young of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

In Detwiller's view, it would be particularly fitting that the Borough of Fanwood contribute the funds, more or less as a testimonial to the contributions of Agnoli. Mr. and Mrs. Agnoli plan to move from Fanwood some time in the future.

"RESOLVE" Expected To Open Doors Before October First

A new concept in help for Scotch Plains-Fanwood youth will become operative in Scotch Plains on or before October 1, when RESOLVE opens its doors at 1834 Front Street. Funds totaling \$56,000 from SLEPA (State Law Enforcement Planning Agency) for the first year of operation.

Many Scotch Plains-Fanwood citizens were familiar with the DARE program, which was ineffective here for a year, at the same Front Street location, in a house owned and donated by the township of Scotch Plains. DARE was a drug abuse rehabilitation program, and confined itself strictly to drug-associated problems and educational efforts. RESOLVE, on the other hand, will be much broader based in approach and will direct itself to all juvenile problems. Whereas the DARE center operated primarily as a drop-in facility, RESOLVE will be primarily based upon referrals from courts, police, churches, schools, etc. Any youth who needs help and drops in will, of course, be assisted at the new center, but the push will be more toward professional help based upon referrals.

RESOLVE will be under the direction of a Board of Directors, with the American Red Cross, Plainfield Chapter, responsible for handling of finances. The center will be staffed by professionals well versed in juvenile problems such as drugs, alcohol, vandalism, etc. The director will hold at least a Master's degree and hopefully a Ph.D. in Counseling or a related field, and job specifications for RESOLVE directorship call for three years of experience in counseling, supervision and management. Two counselors will also be on the RESOLVE staff, and will have Master's in Clinical Psychology or Psychiatric Social Work or the equivalent. The counselors will have served internships or have experience in counseling, group work, case work, etc. The professional staff will further include four interns in Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work.

According to Mrs. Gerd Miller, chairman of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Committee for RESOLVE, hopefully there will also be local volunteers serving at the center, and such volunteers will be educated before they serve. The goal is to involve the entire community, Mrs. Miller pointed out, and therefore there will be widespread efforts to familiarize citizens with RESOLVE program. Public meetings and smaller home meetings are among the educational activities planned. Adults will have a role, and the RESOLVE program will also utilize the volunteer efforts of high school youths who will serve in big brother and big sister roles for the youths needing treatment.

Each youth being treated at the center will have a minimum of two hours per week of professional help, and an adult will be available for emergency consultation or care full time. The present Care-Ring answering service which now helps citizens of all ages with all sorts of problems, will become a 24-hour facility and will be available to those wishing help from RESOLVE during night-time hours.

"To restore youths to function as productive citizens of the community" is the ultimate function of RESOLVE," Mrs. Miller indicated. The RESOLVE program should help first offenders, and should hopefully cut down on second offenses, she noted. Many children who find themselves in trouble with the law need psychiatric help, medical attention, etc., and the RESOLVE program will work closely in conjunction with the Youth Service Bureaus which operate under Red Cross affiliation, with referrals going back and forth.

Is RESOLVE needed here? Data on police-juvenile contracts in Scotch Plains and Fanwood reveals a constant increase in problems as evidenced by statistics for the years 1968 through 1972. In Scotch Plains, incidents involving male juveniles increased by 250 percent, while incidents involving girls during that period jumped 563 percent. Cases referred to juvenile court rose by 196 percent. The statistics in Fanwood were not as startling. Number of cases there has fluctuated from year to year during the five-year period, but there has been an increase of 122 percent of incidents in a combined male-female figure. While juvenile officers have worked with offenders to keep them out of the courts, the increased load with no staff increase has made it virtually impossible to continue to do the necessary job of rehabilitation.

The background of these youthful offenders cuts across socioeconomic lines. Children of parents with extremely low incomes who are constantly confronted with the very real pressure of life have little time or energy left to provide adequate attention and guidance for children, while parents in more affluent families are often preoccupied with their own activities, leaving children with too much unsupervised time and freedom. The delinquency problem has been compounded in recent years by

Continued on page 7