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## Local School District Prepares For Release Of Statewide Test Results

In November of 1972, fourth and twelfth graders in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools participated in the Educational Assessment Program which had been mandated, formulated, and administered by the New Jersey Department of Education. The tests, which measured reading and mathematics at the two grade levels, were administered simultaneously in all school districts within the state. On May 28 of this year, after lengthy legal hassles and endless sorting and analysis of data, the local district will join all other school districts in New Jersey in a simultaneous release of scores from the 1972 tests.

The 1972 tests encompassed from 60 to 85 different items in each of the four test areas. The questions covered a wide range of skills common to students throughout New Jersey, with the items grouped into "clusters" of similar skill areas. For example, a reading "cluster" might test a fourth reader's skill in word knowledge, phonetic analysis, etc. The results were compiled by the New Jersey Department of Education, and were returned here on March 14, 1974. The compilation of scores includes totals on the number of children in the district who took the tests, the number who were successful on each of the many items tested, and a percentage figure for successful results in each of the questions. Thus, the results represented a highly detailed, question-by-question report.

Each school district received scores on the district as a whole and a breakdown school by school and class by class. State directives for release of the scores to the public dictate that the base data must be available, and that each district must make available the score information for the district at large and school by school results. Although school administrations throughout New Jersey will also have available more detailed classroom breakdowns, this information will not be released here, nor is it required for in-

clusion in a report which each district must prepare for state approval within 60 days of receipt of the test scores. The analysis and interpretation from each district is checked for accuracy by state educational authorities and approved before the May 28 release date.

According to informational materials prepared by state-level educators before administration of the 1972 tests, the purpose of the Educational Assessment Program is the provision of scores which would assist a school district in determining strengths and weaknesses of its curriculum. In no way had the tests been intended as a study of the effectiveness of individual teachers, according to state authorities.

Dr. Donald Sheldon, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, was named District Coordinator of The Educational Assessment Program. He headed a committee which included Fred Laberge, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Perry Tyson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; Dorothy Roberts, Director of Reading; Dr. Terry Riegel, Principal of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School; Dr. Albert DeSousa, Principal of Brunner School; and Howard Clickenger, Assistant to the Superintendent.

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## Listening Post Gets Earful Of School Budget

Seven people attended the Board of Education Listening Post on Saturday, April 6, at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High. Board members in attendance were Robbie Mason, Darrell Brownawell and Walter Boright.

Among the concerns raised were the 1974-75 school budget, the opening of school records, and how the public can cause questions to be discussed at a Board meeting. A suggestion was made that the current policy on the elementary lunch program, now in suspension, be rescinded and that the policy on an open elementary lunch program to be initiated in the fall of 1974 be brought forward to the spring of 74.

The Board members stated that their understanding of the next step for resolving the budget was for the Township and Borough Councils to present a rationale for their recommended budget cut. The Board will then respond to this rationale and either negotiate the budget cut using the offices of Dr. West, the Union County Superintendent of Education, or the State Commissioner who will find the bud-

get based on the case presented to him.

The questioner concerned about opening school records was reminded that the policy is to restrict anecdotal records to school personnel. Such records are destroyed upon graduation.

Any citizen can bring an issue to the attention of the Board by letter. Normally, the letter will be acknowledged by Mr. Klick, Secretary to the Board. The Board will discuss the issue and if a majority vote in favor, it will be placed on the agenda of the next Public Board meeting. The Board will normally request Mr. Klick to respond by letter giving the Board's decision.

The suggestion on the elementary lunch policy will be taken under consideration.

The Board listening post is held on the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Choral room of the high school. Next session is May 4.

## Newcomb Backs Flood Control Plan Four

### Two Named By Police Department

Two new sergeants were named to the Scotch Plains Police Department last week - Arthur Bruschetti and Thomas DiQuollo.



ARTHUR BRUSCHETTI



THOMAS DIQUOLLO

Sergeant Arthur J. Bruschetti is married to the former Dolores Blake, has 2 children and resides at 2251 Elizabeth Avenue, Scotch Plains, N.J.

He was appointed to the Department as Patrolman on May 15, 1967.

He attended Union County Police Chiefs Basic Training Academy and other Police oriented Training Schools.

In January 1973 he received Departmental Commendation for his work in apprehending a Burglary Suspect and in October 1973 received a commendation from the Fanwood Police Department for his assistance in apprehending a Burglary Suspect from that Community.

Sergeant Thomas DiQuollo is single and lives at 85 Briarwood Path, Clark.

He was appointed to the Department as Patrolman on May 15, 1973.

He attended Union County Police Chiefs Basic Training Academy and many other Police oriented Training Schools.

He was assigned to the Detect-

### Says Plan Would Preserve Area Ecology And Serve Best Interests Of Scotch Plains

By April 19, the Army Corps of Engineers wants a commitment from the Green Brook Flood Control Commission on which of four possible flood control plans the 13 member communities favor. Scotch Plains is a member-community on that commission.

To date, the Township Council as a whole has not expressed any preference among the four plans. However, Councilman Lawrence Newcomb, who is one of the township's two representatives on the Green Brook Flood Control Commission, did deliver a formal statement of his own personal position at a public hearing held by the Army Corps in Plainfield last week. Newcomb favors Plan 4, which provides for damming of the Green Brook upstream from Scotch Plains, and a diversion tunnel north of Route 22. Other plans set forth by the Army Engineers would be equally effective in flood control, the A.C.E. said, so that the choice of one of the four by the commission municipalities would represent a consensus of opinion on the particular plan which would find majority support. Other plans included several flood-control approaches, including dams, levees, retention walls, etc. Newcomb's statement follows:--

"As a Councilman in Scotch Plains and one of the Township's representatives to the Green Brook Flood Control Commission, I have spent considerable time studying the various proposals of the Corps of Engineers. I examined them first as to how they will effect the people of Scotch Plains and secondly what effect these plans will have upon the entire area, both upstream and downstream from Scotch Plains. In the process, I have had the opportunity to speak with citizens in the concerned areas of the Township that have suffered damage from flooding from the Green Brook, as well as meeting with citizens whose primary concerns are the preservation of a viable ecology.

"I believe it is the consensus of all of these people, and it is my personal opinion, that the plans calling for a diversion tunnel north of Route 22 would best serve the interests of Scotch Plains and, I believe, the best interests of most of the surrounding areas as well."

Newcomb went on to emphasize that he received a Departmental Commendation from the Fanwood Police Department for his assistance in apprehending a Burglary Suspect from that Community.

He also received a Department Commendation in January 1972 for his assistance in apprehending three Burglary Suspects in our Township.

Both men are presently enrolled in College Courses in Police Science and will be graduated with Associate In Arts Degrees later this year.

his favor for a single large dam in the lower portion of the gorge of the Green Brook, in preference to two smaller dams. The approach calling for two smaller dams would provide for one of those dams to be located higher upstream in the Seeley's Pond area.

Under the one-dam plan, Scotch Plains observers would see a 65-foot high dam. With two dams provided, the one visible in northern Scotch Plains would be 58 feet high. The upstream one would be 35 feet high. Newcomb said he walked the Green Brook from above Seeley's Pond to the bridge at Terrill Road recently, and concluded that looking up at a 58-foot high dam really isn't too different from looking up at one 65 feet high. "But looking out at a 35-foot high, 1,200 foot long, dam versus not having to look at any dam at all has to be a considerable difference to the people upstream."

Second, the Seeley's Pond recreation area of the Watchung Reservation would be at least partially buried by the second, upstream, dam. Newcomb pointed out, "The downstream areas that would be lost to a larger dam, while rugged and pleasant to see while traveling past in a car, are not used by anywhere near the number of people enjoying the advantages of the Seeley's Pond area, the Councilman feels.

Third, he indicated that the single dam is less costly to both the federal government and to whatever local unit must ultimately pay the "non-Federal" costs of the project. Not only are initial construction costs less, Newcomb indicated, but maintenance costs would be less as well.

He concluded, "However, as good citizens and good neighbors, I believe it is incumbent on Scotch Plains as I believe it is on every other community, to indicate a second choice and even a third, for prompt action on this project is more important than the selection of any given plan. My second choice is the tunnel with two dams and my third choice would be the plan involving channel improvements and stream realignments coupled with a single dam."

Councilman Newcomb noted that any of the plans have a distinct advantage for Scotch Plains, in that once construction begins on a dam, that dam begins providing immediate protection to downstream communities, including Scotch Plains.