

PLAINS LIBRARY
100 N. MAIN ST.
SCOTCH PLAINS, N.J. 07076
TEL. 973-261-1100

THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 15, NO. 1

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1974

15 CENTS

Board Expected To Name New District Head Within A Month

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education hopes to name a new Superintendent of Schools by January 31, 1975, the effective date for the retirement of present superintendent Fred J. Laberge. Board President Charles Ferguson said this week that the New Jersey School Administrators Association, which was chosen as the consultant in the search, had received over 100 applications. Ferguson said it is anticipated that the field will be narrowed to six candidates by January 10.

Mr. Ferguson reported that the teachers salary guide for 1975-76 has been settled, with starting teachers earning \$9,700 with a Bachelor's degree. The guide covers sixteen steps, up to \$22,072 for sixteen years with a doctorate. Ferguson was praised for his negotiating talents.

The Board of Education will accept the decision of the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, Fred Burke, regarding restoration of some of the funds cut from the 1974-75 school budget by the governing bodies of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

Joseph Nagy, a Fanwood resident, read a letter which he plans to read to the Councils of the two communities, urging that they accept the Commissioner's decision as well. Of the \$969,000 cut, the Commissioner has restored \$714,260, which indicated the Councils have prevailed to the extent of \$254,740. Nagy argued that the Councils should not have the authority to structure the school system whenever the Board's budget is defeated at an annual election. Nagy's letter stated:

"Because taxes collectable for the fiscal year 1974-75 make no provision for the \$714,260 restored, the Commissioner directed the County Board of Tax-

ation to proceed to raise the money. Each taxpayer will have to carry his proportionate share and the education of our children must proceed in the certainty that there is an authorized sum of money to maintain an established number of teachers to implement a prescribed program of studies."

Next year's school budget will be presented to the public on January 7, Terrill Junior High School, at 8:00 p.m. On January 14, another budget discussion will be held, followed by final adoption. The state has authorized a delay in voting on budgets until funding is settled at the state level. However, Ferguson said, the local schedules for budget presentation, and voting on budget and board members, will be maintained.

Mrs. Robbie Mason spoke regarding a critical editorial in a local daily newspaper, as well as criticism from some areas of the public sector, regarding the board's new policy on access to student records. She said permitting random access to school records interferes with effectiveness and efficiency of the district operation. Acting Superintendent Perry Tyson agreed, stating the new rules regarding advance application,

School Board Elections May Be Postponed

As of Monday morning, December 21, Governor Brendan Byrne had not yet signed a bill, approved by N.J. Assembly and Senate, which would postpone the February vote on school budgets and school elections. Should Byrne sign that bill into law, the filing date for candidates for the four open seats on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education would be delayed to an as yet undetermined date. As of Monday, however, the final filing date was still set at December 26.

To date, three candidates have filed for the four seats. They include the three year terms of outgoing board members Leonia Reilly of Fanwood, Board President Charles Ferguson, and Peter Britton of Scotch Plains, and a two-year unexpired term which was vacated by Walter Boright when he was elected a county freeholder.

By Monday, Ferguson had filed to run for a full three-year term and had also filed to seek the two-year Boright unexpired term. He would have to make a determination of which of the two seats he is seeking before election. Frank J. Festa of Scotch Plains had filed for the Boright seat, and Norman A. Ross of Scotch Plains had filed for a three-year seat.

Although they have not formally filed, a four-man slate of candidates have made known their intention to run. Donald Dugan from Fanwood, Thomas Fallon, Vincent Shanni, and Thomas Van Vliet of Scotch Plains will run as a team, dedicated to a shared view that the Board of Education's policies and procedures "are alienating the community which it professes to serve."

Dugan, of 265 Westfield Road, Fanwood seeks the seat held by Mrs. Leonia Reilly, a three year term. Fallon, of 12 Chip-lou Lane, and Shanni, of 1310 Cushing Road, seek three-year terms - seats now held by Ferguson and Peter Britton. Van Vliet of 34 Rolling Knolls Road, aspires to the remaining two years of a term of Walter Boright.

The four-man team claim independence of any existing community group affiliation. They have not sought endorsement from any single faction, in an effort to maintain objectivity. The announced purpose of the slate is to provide local children with "the best, well-rounded educational opportunities available within the evident financial capability."

While they acknowledge many accomplishments of the present school administration, Messrs. Dugan, Fallon, Shanni, and Van Vliet will urge positive action in budget preparation and presentation, objective personnel evaluation, of teachers and adminis-



Architect's Agezlio T. Pancani, Jr. rendering of proposed luxury condominiums on Scotch Plains South Side.

Board Of Adjustment OK's Apartment Units For Industrial Tract

a waiting time, and a date arranged by mail was done to allow administrators the courtesy of a mutually convenient time, a way to keep accurate records, and a method of keeping financial accounting of the many requests for copies of board records. Philip Labasi backed the new board policy, stating that the public must also submit written requests to see records when dealing on the federal level. He pointed out a certain amount of work is required in putting together requested material.

Although five administrators have been receiving a car allowance of \$70 per month, or \$840 per year, for several years, the Board heretofore had never formalized the arrangement. Board did so last week, authorizing the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services, Assistant to the Superintendent, and Executive Assistant to receive the \$840 stipend. These positions are now held by Fred Laberge, Dr. Perry Tyson, Donald Shelton, Philip Geiger and Michael Kluck. Philip Labasi voted no, preferring a mileage-based payment, and Robert Carlson asked for an investigation of advantages of a mileage-based arrangement.

trators and enhancement of community relations.

In Fanwood, at least a three-way race seems apparent. Although no candidates have formally filed from Fanwood, Mrs. Reilly has announced intention to seek re-election, and former Board member Richard Bard has declared he will run.

New Year's Week Issue

The TIMES will publish on Tuesday, December 31 instead of Thursday, January 2. Deadline for all copy will be Friday, December 27.

Council Will Now Vote On Condominiums Priced To \$75,000; Ratables Could Total \$7 Million

The Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment gave its stamp of approval to a 120-unit luxury condominium development for the southside industrial development, during its meeting on December 19. A recommendation for approval will be forthcoming to the Scotch Plains Township Council soon.

The apartments would be built on approximately 15 acres of land bordering along Lake Avenue, in a tract which had been earmarked for potential industrial development. The property is adjacent to the Lehigh Valley Railroad on one side, a stream on the other, and is zoned industrial.

Richard Schneider and Alan Schulman are the applicants for approval to construct the apartments. The apartments would cover 12.05 percent of the total acreage. The development would include 73 one-bedroom units and 48 two-bedroom units, providing eight units per acre. In addition to the 120 units for sale, there would be one superintendent's unit, which would be located in the community building. A recreational area, incorporating tennis courts, pool, and the community building, is included as a part of the complex.

The condominium units would be built in groupings of apartments, each group surrounding a center court and landscaped area, with balconies facing upon the

court. Parking would be provided for 202 cars, or 1.67 cars per condominium unit.

The condominium units will range in price from \$55,000 to \$65,000 for one-bedroom unit, and \$65,000 to \$75,000 for a two-bedroom unit. At an average of \$60,000 per unit, at full 100 percent valuation, the project could represent a ratable somewhere in the area of \$7 million for Scotch Plains.

Merry Christmas

From the Staff of THE TIMES

Correction

In the December 12 issue of The Times, it was incorrectly reported that the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association had sponsored a fund drive, requesting \$25 from each teacher in the district, in an effort to support the next school budget and to affect the makeup of the Board of Education.

In actuality, a group of teachers have formed a group, without the endorsement of the full SFFEA.