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SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1975

15 CENTS A COPY

Asks New Attitude In School District

Dr. Reigh Carpenter, new Superintendent of Schools for Scotch Plains-Fanwood, called for a "new attitude" for the school district as the 1975-76 school year opens. Carpenter addressed the staff of the schools at a meeting at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on Tuesday. The staff and the administration of the district must be responsive to the questions and the concerns of the community, Carpenter said. There is nothing to hide, and questions should be answered, mistakes should be admitted.

Carpenter said he feels the credibility of the district depends upon honest twoway communication between staff and the community. He feels that there have been times in the past when members of the staff did not agree with positions taken by the public as a matter of principle. This is no time to stand on principles when it comes to issues, Carpenter said.

The new superintendent believes in professionalism from his staff, but not to the point where professionals protect incompetents. "Cameraderie cannot interfere with the maintenance of high quality of education," he stated. He spoke favorably about controls which the legal and medical professional have, wherein they set up screening boards to weed out those who do not uphold professional standards. He suggested that teaching staff not go ahead and "defend to the end" incompetent fellow teachers.

On the question of budget cuts, Carpenter said he realizes that this year's budget represents only 7/10 of one percent increase - a difficult figure - but he noted that over the past twelve years, the percentages of increase have averaged twelve percent annually. He told staff members that in the beginning of the school years, he does not anticipate any problems with supplies and equipment.

In recent months, a newly elected Board of Education eliminated seven positions of directors in the various disciplines. Hence, schools were slated to open without any specific supervisory responsibility for curriculum. Carpenter had been directed by Board President Richard M. Bard to provide for supervision. The superintendent announced to the staff that he and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Perry Tyson will be handling supervisory responsibility for the beginning of this year. Phil Geiger, now

Assistant to the Superintendent and in charge of Personnel, will be handling elementary supervisory duties. Carpenter said these assignments are only for the time being, until more formal organization of supervisory assignments are made to cover curriculum development and teacher evaluation.

Carpenter indicated that he plans to spend considerable time in the schools and plans to become very involved in the supervisory tasks. He and Tyson, as well as Geiger, will be handling observations of teachers, as mandated by state law; three observations for every non-tenured teacher, one for every tenured teacher annually.

The district is in excellent shape in terms of curriculum development, Carpenter said. A bang-up job has been done in recent years, Carpenter said, and suggested something of a "holding pattern" in introduction of curriculum changes for the current year.

Prior to his meeting with staff, Carpenter was joined by Bard, board members Philip Labasi, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent Jerome Coffman, and Assistant Superintendent for Business Michael Klick toured school buildings. The tour was a followup to a similar tour taken over the holiday weekend with several other board members. Carpenter said buildings are in very good condition for opening day.

Bard echoed this opinion, as far as cleanliness goes. Bard indicated, however, that there are several maintenance problems which will require attention due to failure to provide maintenance in the past. There are some leaky roofs, drainage problems, etc. and the Superintendent and the Board President are formulating a list of priorities to get these jobs done.

Council Will Sell Some Properties Owned By Township

Recreation Commission Cites Need For New Facilities, Asks For Municipal Annex

The Scotch Plains Council is taking a long look at numerous property holdings, deciding whether to sell some. The study has resulted in a decision to sell at least four properties, with sale authorization approved by Council on Tuesday night.

Among the four properties to be sold at a date to be announced in the future are: 1790 Front Street, the small brick building which was once the library and now houses Youth Employment Service; 1831 East Second Street -- the brick building near the main intersection in town, referred to as the Annex Building, now vacant, and long used for municipal offices before the construction of the new Municipal Building; 1915 Westfield Avenue - a home, originally acquired by the township to gain property to build an access drive from Westfield Avenue into the municipal parking lot; and 2143 West Broad Street - a vacant lot at the northwest corner of Hetfield and West Broad.

The Council voted separately on the four parcels, with a hassle developing over only one - the Annex Building. Councilwoman Ann Wodjenski urged that Council not sell the Annex. She said the Recreation Commission has requested that property for a teen center, which she favored. Mrs. Wodjenski said she has investigated the building with the Commission, Building Inspector, Engineer, etc., and has found it to be structurally sound and useable, needing new flooring, at a cost of between \$4,000 and \$6,000.

Teenagers have no facility of their own in the community, she said, and need such a center - a place to "rap" with supervision but not a structured program. She said she has gotten little support from the Council in discussions of the teen center issue, since some Council members feel it is a poor location.

Councilman Noel Musial argued that these are trying economic times and he opposed taking a building assessed for \$65,000 and turning it into a teen center. He favored selling, and obtaining revenue. There are other spaces available for teen gatherings, he said, suggesting churches, schools, etc. Mrs. Wodjenski said kids do not want to gather in schools, but want a place they can paint, decorate, etc.

Musial feels the town owns far more property than it needs. He said he became aware of municipal property holdings early this year, when Council members toured all of them. "I was very much surprised at the number of

buildings and buildable lots which the township owns. Some of the buildings lie vacant and ready for vandalism, not producing any income for the township," Musial said. He suggested the township remove itself from the real estate business and put the properties back on the tax rolls. The Council does not plan to rush into a massive sale of property, but a planned orderly approach to disposition of properties is in order, he said.

Councilman Larry Newcomb questioned the need to rush into the sale of the Annex, since Council has just authorized a survey of recreation needs and has recommended a use for the annex property.

Councilman Grote agreed with Musial, citing teen centers at the high school and prospects of using Green Forest Park, Scotch Hills, etc. In a vote on sale of the four properties, Council unanimously approved sale of three, splitting on the annex. In a rare split vote which cut across party lines, Musial, Grote and Griffin favored selling the Annex, while Newcomb and Wodjenski opposed.

Council voted to object to the widening of roads as outlined in the Union County Planning Board transportation maps. The county Planning Board had scheduled a public hearing on county road plans for last night, and the Council wished to register its objection to the county recommendations for widening Park Avenue from Route 22 to the business district.

Council approved an ordinance appropriating \$7,500 for sidewalks in a portion of Cooper Road.

A request from the Historical Society for permission to use the lawn adjoining the municipal building for an Old Time Games Day on October 12 was approved.

A resolution was approved designating Scotland Road between Route 22 and Mountain Avenues as a through street, with stop signs at intersecting corners. Yield signs were also authorized; on Golf at the Arrowwood-Dogwood intersection; on Redwood at Muir; on Church at Portland; on Washington at Elysia; on Church at Birch; on Sterling at Church; on Watchung View Place at Church.

We'll Have "Funny" Fire Plugs Too

Those darling little Revolutionary heroes and heroines who decorate the curbsides in Fanwood are planning a population explosion! They'll be marching right over the borough borders, into Scotch Plains, as eager Scotch Plains artists pick up the paint brushes to join in the Bicentennial fun!

Throughout the summer, Fanwood residents have been waiting in line to obtain the painting patterns and kits to transform fire hydrants in their neighborhoods into facsimiles of George Washington, Betsy Ross, Nathan Hale, Patrick Henry, and even local Revolutionary heroine Aunt Betsy Frazee. Now, the Scotch Plains Bicentennial group has asked the Township Council to approve a similar undertaking for their community. Council voted Tuesday to OK the project.

Details will be forthcoming soon from the office of the Municipal Manager.

"The Fireplugs of Fanwood" was the title of a short news feature last week, shown on the CBS evening news at approximately 6:45 p.m. Cameramen toured the borough, filming completed fireplugs and a couple in progress. The CBS coverage followed a similar presentation a week earlier over NBC.

CROSSROADS of the REVOLUTION



JULY 1, 1975 — FEB. 1, 1977

Wouldn't you like to have a special Bi-Centennial License Plate? They are red, white and blue (reproduced above), and you may order one through Miss Helen M. Reidy down at Town Hall in Scotch Plains. They cost \$3.00 each, and the proceeds from their sale will go to our local Bi-Centennial Committee to help defray the costs of the coming year's activities.