

# THE TIMES

ONLY NEWSPAPER WITH COMPLETE SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD NEWS

VOLUME 16, NO. 41

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, N.J. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1975

15 CENTS A COPY

## Board Names Committee For 45 Day Study Of Education Philosophy

On Saturday, October 18, a 25-member committee met at Park Junior High School to kick off a 45-day study which will result in recommendations for a new philosophy of education for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district. This ad hoc committee includes representation from the public, from teaching staff, and from students.

Their appointment concludes a month of public wrangling over a version of a new philosophy introduced last month by the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee Chairman is Philip Labasi, the members are Vincent Shanni and Thomas Fallon. The philosophy introduced by Labasi differed widely from the philosophy which has been in existence here since 1970. The new version could have been voted upon last week, following its September introduction. However, the Board postponed decision. The version which Labasi had introduced was widely divergent from the old philosophy in general tone. It had stressed the imparting of cognitive skills, and set top priorities of the district as development of reading, writing and mathematical skills. The old philosophy, in contrast, had indicated self-awareness, development of potential, and self-fulfillment.

The new ad hoc committee will not necessarily dictate or write the new philosophy. The members will be an advisory body, formulating recommendations. The final decision will rest with the Board of Education.

Although all Board members voted in the affirmative on the ad hoc committee (an input concept which had been recommended by the teachers unit), Labasi voices reservations on the named. He felt the membership was too heavily "southside," and did not reflect the geographical distribution of the community. In formulating the committee, all Board of Education members were asked to submit five names for inclusion. From this list, the ad hoc group was chosen during a Board Committee of the whole meeting. During their initial meeting on Saturday, Edward Spack was elected chairman.

The auditorium at Terrill Junior High School was packed to overflowing during the early portion of the meeting, which ended at 1:30 a.m. The complexion of the audience was heavily staff

and students of high school age, with a smaller representation of parents.

Board members spoke of the background which led to the introduction of the philosophy of last month, which has now been postponed. Thomas Fallon said the primary objective was to get a philosophy out to the public. One area of the new philosophy which has drawn repeated criticism and comment is that relating to a prohibition on the undertaking of programs which "intrude into the affective domain, specifically the teaching of values and attitude formation." Fallon said in response to audience question on whether or not teachers can impart values, that the Board had been addressing itself to specific programs designed to measure a student's attitudes and values. He said the state Department of Education has designed several such programs. Some apply to religion, race, parents and family relationships. Fallon cited one example, which is called a "puerto Rican test," which measures ethnic reactions. If these tests are administered, results could become part of a child's permanent record, Fallon said.

He noted that some of the tests could force a child into decisions which he has no leeway to defend. For instance, a child may be asked to choose whether he prefers a mother or father; Mussolini or Hitler. One answer is to be chosen, Fallon said.

"I'm against these tests. I feel judgments made are not in a student's best interest," he said. While such tests are not administered within the local district now, Fallon said the inclusion of their prohibition in the new philosophy was designed to insure that they would not be added in the future.

Robert Carlson indicated that past Boards have met often in attempts to formulate a new philosophy. He claimed input had been sought in the past, from staff and from previous boards. Carlson claimed that much of

## Town Council Would Change Structure Of Board Of Health

### Public Hearing And Vote On Proposal Set For Nov. 5

The Scotch Plains Township Council has introduced legislation which would eliminate the Board of Health, replacing it with a Department of Health, under the supervision of the Township Manager. A public hearing and second vote on the issue is scheduled for November 5.

According to Councilwoman Ann Wodjenski, liaison to the Board of Health, the move is not to be interpreted as a political one, but has been undertaken for reasons of efficiency. The legislation does not reflect on any Board of Health member, past or present, Mrs. Wodjenski said, commending the time and unselfish activity of volunteers.

Mayor Robert Griffin said it had been given much serious thought, and it is felt the two part-time and one full-time employees of the Board of Health should report to the manager. "It is inappropriate to have a body be autonomous," Griffin said.

Councilman Walter Grote voted in the negative, Councilman Larry Newcomb abstained. These two are the only Republicans on the Council. Grote concurs with having the employees under the jurisdiction of the manager but does not favor abolishing the old board, which he said has years of experience to contribute to the township.

The Board of Health is now a seven-member volunteer board, with three paid employees - one a part time health officer, one a part time plumbing inspector, and one a fill time sanitarian. The health officer issue has caused some discussion in recent months, since the Scotch Plains health officer who serves only part time here also provides the same function for the community of Westfield, and the two communities have been in contention over the Westfield garden recycling facility, with Scotch Plains officials claiming the recycling center causes a health hazard.

Councilman Larry Newcomb was unsuccessful in attempting to round up support for an amendment which would have moved the public hearing until a later meeting in November. Newcomb felt that the November 5 hearing is on a Wednesday, instead of the usual Tuesday, which is Election Day, thereby providing a possible source of confusion.

Final approval was given to four ordinances. One vacates public rights to portions of Cliffwood Street, Lincoln Avenue and Jefferson Avenue in Kramer Manor Park. The streets are paper streets, undeveloped and located within the body of the park. The legislation only insures their parkland status. Another takes similar action in vacating Park Place, another paper street near St. John the Baptist Church on Morse Avenue. The vacating ena-

bles better parking facilities at the church.

A third ordinance is a bonding ordinance for the Willow Grove sewers, a fourth changes the land subdivision ordinance, setting new fees which officials indicated may recoup some of the losses which occur in subdivision reviews. The ordinance sets a \$25 fee for submission of a minor subdivision application, and \$100 for the first lot, \$50 for each thereafter in a major subdivision.

The Council voted to change rental fees for the ballroom at Scotch Hills Country Club. The fee will be lowered from \$100 per use to \$50, with other rentals remaining the same. Councilman Noel Musial disapproved, seeing no reason for reducing a rate which has been in existence for some time. Councilwoman Ann Wodjenski said the reduction is being made in an attempt to provide Scotch Plains residents with an opportunity to hold their family showers, weddings and parties at this recently re-modeled township facility.

The township entered into a contract with Jerseyland Community Center for leaf disposal on the Jerseyland site, for \$1, 100.

Several streets were designated through streets in another resolution approved. As through streets, there are stop signs placed on the right side of each intersecting street. The streets so designated are: Lyde between Cook and Westfield Road; Lyde between Westfield Road and Henry; Coles between Cook and Westfield Road; Coles between Westfield Road and Henry; Henry between Mountain and Westfield Avenue.

### DEM Response On Oct. 25

The monthly Democratic Response will be held in the Council Chambers of the Scotch Plains Municipal Building at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, October 25th. This month's scheduled speaker will be Tax Assessor Mary Pearson, who will speak on assessment values in Scotch Plains. Following Mrs. Pearson's presentation, a question and answer period will follow. Any interested citizens may attend this session and discuss any subjects of municipal government they desire.

### Warning!

We have been advised that there is apparently some firm calling local residents implying they represent the local Rescue Squads, or Fire Departments. They offer to give out free Tot Finder or other Fire Prevention material. Once inside your home they try to sell high priced fire alarms.

Your Fire Prevention Bureau: Does recommend early warning fire detectors. Does not sell anything.

Will show you many inexpensive good units without any obligation.

Will not recommend any one brand.

Will never ask you to sign anything.

the reaction to the new version has come because "there are those in this district who do not wish to be measured or held accountable." He said setting a philosophy should be followed by establishment of goals and objectives, which would then be followed by establishment of measurements to determine success or failure in meeting these goals and objectives.

The naming of the committee drew praise from some in the audience. Michael Lauten, president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association, favored the input from several areas. Lauten said the controversy within the community would have been avoided if a philosophy had been introduced the right way in the first place. He applauded the turnout as an indication of the interest. The audience numbered about 400.

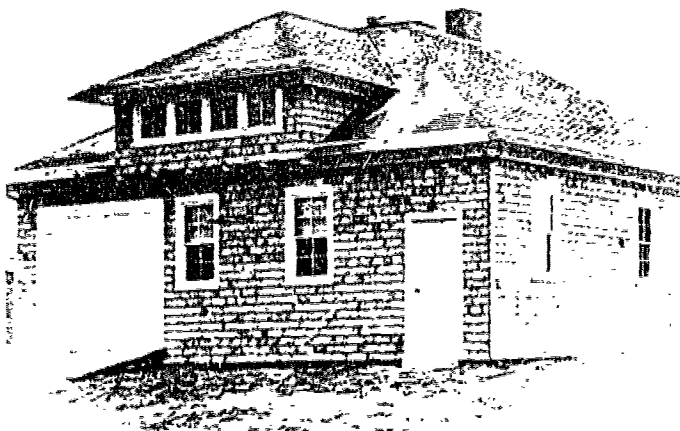
Continued On Page 25

### Flood Groups Meet Tonight

The Committee of Concerned Citizens, Inc. of Scotch Plains announced that their regular monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, at 8:30 p.m. in the Mayor's Chambers at the North Plainfield Municipal Building, Somerset St.

The meeting is to be held jointly with the North Plainfield Flood Alert and the Crab Brook Committee. Representatives of the three groups who traveled to Vermont with members of the Green Brook Flood Control Commission to view the Army Corps of Engineers flood relief project there, will report to the general membership on their observations.

### Fanwood's First Firehouse



Fanwoods Fire Department is celebrating 85 years of growth from this primitive beginning. See story beginning on page 14.