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Warner Retires LaGrande Principal After 18 Years

Edward K. Warner has served as principal of LaGrande School in Fanwood for 18 years. In that capacity, he has seen thousands of Fanwood children pass through the elementary grades of schooling, and has come to know hundreds of parents and teachers. Many of them returned last week, to pay tribute to Warner on the occasion of his retirement from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district. Warner leaves the local schools on December 1. He was feted at a retirement dinner at King George Inn in Mount Bethel, New Jersey last Thursday.



EDWARD K. WARNER

Ed Warner has been associated with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood district for his entire educational career - a period spanning 37 years! He was born in Scotch Plains and lived there from 1919 to 1957. He attended local public schools and graduated from Trenton State Teachers College in 1939. His practice teaching was done in the local school district, and he joined the district as a teacher upon graduation. In 1957, he moved a short distance across town borders into Fanwood in the year he assumed the principalship of Fanwood's only elementary school.

Now, it is time for a change, Warner said. After all these years spent in Scotch Plains and Fanwood, and in education, he looks forward to warmer climes, plenty of golf, fishing pier, and maybe some bridge. Toward that end, Ed and Mary Alice Warner will be off next week for Florida, to scout around for a new home. They'll rent for a while, as they seek the perfect retirement location. Mr. Warner thinks it will probably be on the West Coast of Florida - perhaps in the vicinity of Sarasota, or Fort Meyer.

When a man has spent a lifetime in the same town working for the same employer, what are his memories? Warner says the thing he appreciates most has been the cooperation and good

spirit of the staff of LaGrande through the years. Many of those teachers were on hand for his farewell. In addition to present staff members, dinner guests included Janet Bigelow, Helen Harper, Dorothy Smith, Abby Webb, Mrs. Fred Dinkel, the ever-popular former Elizabeth Becker, who taught here for 49 years, was another guest. Her husband Fred Dinkle, was Master of Ceremonies. Friends from among the educational community included Flo Garretson, who retired recently from her long-post as secretary to the superintendent of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools.

There was good representation from those many classes of students, too! Former students at the dinner party included Mr. and Mrs. Don Wussler from Scotch Plains, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Millwater who traveled from Denver, Colorado for the occasion, and Mrs. Mary Sawyer who came from Clinton and dedicated a song she composed, "The Last Goodbye" to Warner. Mrs. Sawyer has also composed and arranged for Gladys Knight and the Pips. Her latest song has been recorded on A & M Records.

Two interests from early years have remained with Warner through life. Music is one of them. Warner has been involved in music for a lifetime. He taught music, and he also played. He originated the "Moonglowers" back in his student days at SPFHS. The popular dance band remains a highlight of the high-school program today.

Back in the days of its origins, the Moonglowers received all sorts of attention. The excellent band appeared on radio and television. One day, the band had a recording session for a television program. Everybody was in readiness . . . except for one band member. John Knubel, who later became an admiral in the Navy, headed a submarine, and most recently a bank in the Oranges, faced Warner with a confession. "I forgot my music," he said. "Well, you'll just have to fake it once again," Warner replied. It

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Voters Will Face Mid Year Referendum On School Costs

Board Says Negotiations Continue

Last week, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association issued an announcement that negotiations with the Board of Education had reached an impasse state, and a mediator had been called in. However, last Thursday night, Board of Education President Richard Bard said the Board negotiating team does not accept the impasse situation. A negotiating session was scheduled for this week, and Bard anticipated continuation of negotiations, he said.

The declaration of impasse was made because PERC has established "arbitrary" deadlines for completion of negotiations, Bard said. The PERC deadlines apply to all Boards and teacher groups throughout the state. "If PERC were to hold everybody to the deadlines they have established, there would not be enough mediators to go round," the Board President stated. He noted that negotiations are continuing successfully with secretaries, administrators and teamsters.

The Board heard a report on discussions over the possibility of county construction of a storm water detention basin on grounds of School One or Park Junior High. Bard has attended a discussion session with township officials. He indicated that no Board commitment has been made to allow school lands to be so used. The board has sought answers to questions which have arisen.

Frank Festa, board liaison to the Scotch Plains planning Board, said such a basin would drain within six hours. Bard pointed out that the basin would not fill to capacity each time it rains. He noted that it would drain quicker sometimes than others, but wants an answer on how soon the drained basin would be available for athletic teams and gym use after it had been wet.

Bard pointed out that such a basin would become a "desilting" area for downstream wa-

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Additional \$197,138 Needed From Local Municipalities

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education grappled until 2 a.m. last Thursday night with ways to overcome its \$315,327 deficit for the current school year. On a split vote, the board members finally elected a mid-year referendum, in which they will seek from voters approval for \$197,138 in additional financial support this year. That support would come from surplus funds from the municipal governments of Scotch Plains and Fanwood if such surplus is available, or the municipal governments would issue two tax billings for schools this year. One billing would be for this year's deficit, the other would be for next year's school budget.

The other \$118,119 would be realized by following recommendations for cutbacks, made by Superintendent of Schools Reigh Carpenter. Carpenter outlined pages of recommendations to the Board. Some were accepted, others rejected. Carpenter did not suggest a referendum. He felt, instead, that the Board of Education should sell School One property, which it had already planned to do, and apply monies realized from the sale to the deficit. However, several years back, when voters approved a referendum which provided school improvements, including new School One and additions to several schools in a package, the Board of Education at that time had announced that needed improvements at Park Junior High, which had not been included in the package voted upon, would be made when old School One was sold. Subsequent Boards of Education have similarly voted their intention to follow through on this pledge.

Under Carpenter's recommendation, the Board would "borrow" monies realized from sale of School One, and would return these funds next year, to cover the improvements to Park Junior High. Carpenter was supported in this opinion by Board President Richard Bard, Philip Labasi and Robert Carlson.

How did the deficit come about? Through a combination of cutbacks in state aid, and increases in utilities and operating expenses. The state aid for the current school year will be \$197,138 less than had been anticipated - and it is this amount the voters are being asked to return to schools via a referendum. The unanticipated expenses are due to heavy increases in electrical and heating

bills, and a changeover in billing approach for commercial telephone accounts to message units, which has greatly increased telephone bills. Legal expenses have also been far heavier than originally anticipated by the Board at budget-building time last year.



Carpenter's recommendations for trimming back to make up the \$118,119 include cuts in equipment, overtime, travel, textbook accounts, operational supplies and curriculum - instruction research accounts. Some of these accounts have already been hit earlier in this school year, due to an already initiated cut agreed upon by Board and Councils following a long dispute and appeals over last year's school budget.

Putting off meeting obligations to Park Junior High School would be considered by some Board members. Thomas Fallon was one. "We have an obligation to Park Junior High, and it is going to have to be finished," he said.

Darrell Brownawell, another board member, said borrowing on capital expenses to meet current expenses, which would be done by selling School One and using the money for the budget, is similar to financial approaches used by New York City. He introduced the motion for a referendum and was supported by Henry Schwiering, Robbie Mason, Frank Festa, and Thomas Fallon. Brownawell pointed out the possibility that the district may not be successful in selling School One. He felt that if the referendum fails, the Board still had the option of turning to Carpenter's plan.

Board President Richard Bard disagreed strongly with a referendum. After the meeting,

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