

Legislators' meeting gets some added attention

By Pam Shingler
KPA News Bureau

Legislators heard reports on plans for education accountability and curriculum and debated a potential battle between vocational educators and their representatives during recent committee meetings here.

Members of the interim Committee on Education apparently had an inkling that their April 4 meeting would garner more than normal attention. Several said they had heard complaints from vocational educators over alleged inequities in salaries, leave time and training requirements.

With classes out for spring break and scheduled reports to the legislative committee by their bosses in the new Cabinet for Workforce Development, close to 100 vocational teachers, identified by badges, crowded into the meeting room and hallway.

They mumbled loudly on several occasions as progress reports were delivered by Cabinet Secretary Sandra Gubser and Adult and Technical Education Commissioner Gary Wernskjold. When they applauded a sympathetic comment by Sen. Walter Baker, Committee Co-Chair Sen. Ed Ford threatened to clear the floor.

"This is a discovery," Ford told the crowd. "We're not solving any problems today." He later advised leaders of subcommittees to take up the issues of the vocational disparities.

Sen. David Karem, referring to materials prepared by both the Cabinet and the Kentucky Education Association, asked for clearer explanations of both sides of the vocational education debate. "I can't understand either position," Karem said, leafing through the papers. "Tell us in English next time."

In her report, Sec. Gubser gave background on the formation of the new Cabinet which hopes to manage Kentucky's workforce training needs by coordinating all adult education and vocational training programs.

She commended the legislators for funding the Cabinet, but added that the allocation was "a drop in the bucket" when compared with the needs of a state where more than half the adults in 64 counties do not have high school diplomas. She said that updating equipment in the state's vocational programs would alone take some \$60 million.

Gubser also said that better funding would solve many of the inequities addressed by the vocational teachers.

"It looks like we've created an animal and now have to feed it," quipped Ford.

Annexation

Continued from Page 1
city streets. The cost for labor and materials is \$32.95 per ton.

voted to join the Licking River Valley Resource Conservation and Development Area. There is no charge for support of the group.

appointed Jimmy Shroust to the Independent Planning Commission. Shroust's term is four years, retroactive to March 31, 1991.

voted to get tires for a city truck.

accepted an estimate of \$795 for a new iron door at the sewage treatment plant.

will draft an ordinance banning cooking grease from being dumped into the sewage system.

paid the city's bills.

The council met in a closed session to discuss acquisition of real property and personnel problems.

The council's next meeting will be on Monday, April 22, at 7 p.m.

While saying he supported the exhibit, Rep. Tim Shaughnessy warned Gubser: "I don't see how you can have a solution."

"A lot of the problem can be solved with something less than money - common sense," said Baker. He suggested looking at ways to revise the system of pay for vocational educators.

Sen. Nick Kefauver urged Gubser to encourage members of the Board of Adult and Technical Education to "dialogue with the teacher. The problem needs to be resolved, so everybody is working toward the same objective."

Rep. Clayton Little spoke on the need for more adult education opportunities in rural Kentucky. He cited the nearest facility to his Pike County constituents, Maye State Vocational-Technical School in Paintsville, where, he said, 700 students are enrolled and 1400 remain on a waiting list.

"The workers who pay taxes for the system that fails them," Little said.

Earlier in the day, some of the legislators, members of the Subcommittee on Curriculum, heard a progress report on the plan to revamp Kentucky's classrooms.

Dr. Roger Parkrate, executive director of the Council on School Performance Standards, shared a two-inch-thick draft of how students will learn and be assessed under the 1990 Education Reform Act.

"Framing these goals is the most awesome task I've ever had as a professional," said Parkrate. The proposal, he said, is "outcome based. It will raise (students') level of achievement."

The proposal outlines tasks in 68 different areas, such as writing, reading and history, that students will be expected to master. The proponent, Parkrate said, will require students to combine knowledge, skill and judgment.

A few Kentucky schools are already using this approach, the educator said, "but we're going to make it available for the masses."

ability get a "health report on the reform effort. Penny or more ensuring that parents are adequately involved in school-based management councils."

By Ron L. Helling
CARLSLE — The regular meeting of the Nicholas County School Board began after an hour late due to an extension of the school year by law, to "deal with an "expulsion hearing," according to board vice chairman, John W. Cleaver, Jr.

During the regular session, Superintendent Robert Gilbert explained the need to gather surplus funds for payroll in order to accommodate the salaries to be paid following the end of the fiscal year, but with the salary schedule for July and August being part of the school year, "double checks will be paid to have equal sums of 24 checks starting each September."

The payroll will be larger in June, since all checks must be written by June 30, explained Gilbert. That is why he has to gather a surplus.

He also outlined the 1990-1991 school year has been employed. One-half of the funds for payment will be reimbursed by the State. The firm Carlsle, Lawton and Company of Lexington proposed \$270,000 compared to \$200,000 of the previous auditor.

Gilbert again reiterated that he likes to get three or four prices on items even if they are in his realm to expend monies for the board to see the differences in costs.

While expressing disappointment only one bid be returned, Gilbert read the sealed bid for the Home Economics Department request for new cabinets. Buckley Candy Company of Dixon, Ohio submitted a bid of \$17,256.60 for the basic cabinet work according to specifications set forth by the board, and added \$700.00 for back splash and \$22.50 for each lock needed. Two board members, Sammy Vix and John W. Cleaver, Jr. voted no to accepting the bid.

Both were concerned that while the need for the cabinets was certainly a priority, there may be something else come up for which there would be no funds. Vix cited the need for replacement in the shop, and Cleaver cited the priority for the Elementary School walls.

Gilbert assured them both that there were funds available for the cabinets, and the replacement of the exhaust system, and that the bonding for the walls is in such order that contingency monies were being necessary.

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Board holds hearing

No word of the need for the sprinkler system was given. The school calendar was extended due to closing of school during the year. The official last day of school will be May 24 for students. Graduation will be May 28 and the last day for teachers will be May 29. There will be no school on May 27 for Memorial Day.

Teachers will be consulted regarding a semi-retirement option policy. Those with 27 years of work have an option of working 100 full days or 200 half days.

It was reported that 24 students attend other county schools outside the district at a cost of \$3,000.00 in Average Daily Attendance Funds per student to the district.

The Board then went into closed session to discuss personnel.



Nicholas County Firemen work to extinguish a blaze in a 1984 Chevrolet 4x4 Blazer on Myers Road, April 2. The fire was reported at 9:45 p.m., according to a fire department report. The vehicle was completely destroyed by the fire, as the driver, Daryl Gray was taken to Nicholas County Hospital by EMT Calvin Denton with burns to the hands and face.

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