

Schools Seek \$10.5 Million

By MARIFLO STEPHENS
of The Progress Staff

The Albemarle County School Board unanimously approved a \$10.5 million budget, representing an increase of less than 10 per cent, amid a small quiet audience of 30 in the Jack Jouett auditorium Monday night.

Last year over a thousand people crowded into the auditorium to hear the county school's budget for the coming school year, but this year a small group of citizens confronted the budget with little protestation.

Superintendent Clarence McClure told the group that "the cost of living has hit the school system, the way it has hit everybody else," and said that opening of new school buildings and salary increases for school personnel, among other rising costs, accounted for the increase.

The 5.5 per cent salary increase for teachers in the proposed budget sets a starting salary at \$7,850 and a top salary of \$11,932. Teachers had requested an \$8,000 starting salary and a \$12,400 top salary.

Charles Hill, president of the Albemarle Education Association (AEA), said although the association was in support of the total budget, its members "couldn't help but be disappointed" in the salary proposal, not in line with the 8.8 per cent cost of living increase asked for.

Hill called the budget a "bare roots" budget by AEA standards. AEA represents most of the county teachers.

Salary increases comprise about 70 per cent of the budget increase this year, board member Douglas White said.

An expected increase in

State / Local & Area

Tuesday Afternoon, January 29, 1974

Charlottesville, Virginia—Cl

enrollment of 200 students accounted for 11 new instructional positions, of the 25 new positions called for in the budget.

McClure said that the state's Standards of Quality in education would require new positions and programs, and that other high costs boosted the budget.

Cost increases in transportation, postage rates, telephone service, water and electricity rates dug into the school budget, McClure said.

McClure said the cost of school supplies, especially paper,

"increased drastically," as had testing supplies. The state now requires more testing, noted McClure.

The total budget is \$10,483,602, an increase of \$949,550 over last year, and a local share increase of \$490,538.

The county school budget will now go to the Albemarle Board of Supervisors for approval.

In other action, the school board formally approved a \$6.5 million bond referendum to finance the new county high school, proposed as Western Albemarle High School, to open in Sept. of 1976.

Shopping Center Could Open in '76

Charlottesville realtor Percy Montague confirmed reports Monday that a 12-acre enclosed shopping mall is being planned for an area along U.S. 29 North and Rio Rd. The mall would be near the site of the proposed Charlottesville Shopping World.

According to Montague, the 600,000 square foot mall, located on 57 acres of land presently zoned B-1 business, could be

the Barracks Road Shopping Center. Barracks Road presently includes more than nine acres of combined floor space. The total land area of Barracks Road, including parking space and store facilities, is about 40 acres.

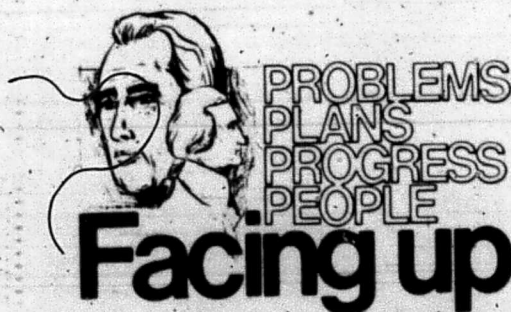
Montague indicated that site plans for the proposed mall might be presented to the Albemarle Planning Depart-

Albemarle Faces \$6.5 Million Bond

In March, Albemarle residents will be asked in a bond referendum to support or reject the proposed \$6.5 million construction of a new high school in western Albemarle County.

The construction of the high school would mark the end of any major building plans for the county in the future. It would also be the final phase of the reorganizational program presently underway.

The reorganization, centered around the middle school concept, would allow regrouping of grades into three areas. Kindergartens and the first through the fifth grades would be housed together. Sixth, seventh and eighth grades would be together. Ninth through twelfth grades would be grouped in the high schools.



The reorganization has been contingent on the completion of construction of three new schools: Leslie H. Walton Middle School; an elementary school near Jack Jouett School; and the Western Albemarle High School.

The county anticipates that the three new additions should alleviate building needs for 10 years.

Rapidly accelerating growth in Albemarle has been most apparent in the county school system.

The county experienced a 750-pupil increase this year, including the addition of 500 kindergarten pupils. Over the past ten years, an average of 300 pupils have been added to enrollment figures per year.

Charlottesville, on the other hand, this year experienced a 100-pupil decrease. Three schools, Jefferson, Lane and McGuffey, will not be needed for classroom use in the future.

With increases in construction costs of about 10 per cent a year, the completion of the new high school becomes of paramount importance if county taxes are to be maintained at near present levels.

Yet the preliminary plan for construction of the school is not without its problems. The Albemarle Board of Supervisors have raised

serious doubts over the choice of architects for the school.

The county school board has indicated that the architectural firm of Davis Associates of Harrisonburg has agreed to draw preliminary plans for the new school.

Preliminary drawings would take about three months with completed working drawings following in about nine months.

At present cost estimates, the firm would receive about \$325,000 for the work.

Davis had done design work for other schools in the county and usually offers a low cost estimate for the work.

But the supervisors have argued that lower bids might be obtained from other firms, perhaps utilizing local architects for the work, in an effort to lower the overall cost.

Another alternative that met with some support would be to investigate the possibility of hiring a full-time architectural staff for county work. One of the hang ups to the idea centers on the fact that the new high school would be the last major school project for some time. With this in mind, a full-time staff might not be advisable.

To settle the situation, the supervisors formed a committee of board members and school officials to study the problem and report back on any alternatives to the present conflict or to suggest a way to resolve future problems.

The committee's report is expected to be released by early February.

Albemarle Supervisor Chairman Gordon L. Wheeler has said that the school bond referendum would provide the board with a mandate from the people as to the direction the residents wish to take toward the education of county children.

If the referendum is voted down, the county might be forced to rethink its position on the middle school concept and the educational goals of the county.

If a vacancy occurs on Albemarle's Board of Supervisors, the new member is appointed by the Judge of the Circuit Court, according to the League of Women Voter's Guide to local Government. This judge may also appoint a county citizen to a four-year term as official tiebreaker to vote in case of a deadlock.

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Introducing
Diane

New Albemarle School To Provide Growing Space

With the prospects for voter approval in March to fund a new high school for Albemarle County, school construction for the county should come to an end.

County school officials have predicted that construction of the proposed Western Albemarle High School should be the last needed construction to handle student populations for the next 10 years.

Based in part on the outcome of the \$6.5 million bond referendum, the county's middle school program should be in full swing by September 1976.

Under the middle school program, the system has been reorganized into a plan which would house the kindergarten through fifth grades in elementary schools; grades six, seven and eight in the middle school; and grades nine, ten, 11 and 12 in two senior high schools.

Albemarle School Supt. Clarence S. McClure said recently the second high school and reorganization plan should provide a solution to the need for high school space. The proposed high school should also relieve crowding in the elementary schools by moving the sixth graders to the middle schools.

Crowding in the junior high schools, McClure said, will also be alleviated when the ninth grades are moved into the high schools and Jouett, Henley and the new Walton school are converted into middle schools.

With the new high school, the county school system should have growing space at every level and, hopefully, at every individual school, McClure added.

But, he said, "Action must be taken now in order to avoid an unbearably overcrowded situation at Albemarle High School."

Enrollment at the present high school has reached 1,892 this year. Expansion of the facility should bring the school's capacity to about 1,950.

"Based on past experience of growth of the county school system, the total enrollment in

grades 9-12 is projected at around 2,900 students for 1976-77," McClure said.

With a projected overflow of about 1,000 students, the need for the new high school grows more urgent every year.

Although the ultimate decision on the future of new high schools rests with the voters this year, county officials have indicated that a thumbs down vote by the county residents will only serve to delay construction, not stop it.

According to one county official, because of the expansion needs over the next few years, construction of a new high school is inevitable. The only question is when the expansion will come.

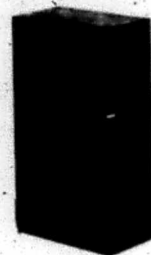
"If the bond referendum fails to pass, it will only mean that, when expansion comes, the cost will be greater than the \$6.5 million figure," the official said.

Construction costs at present increase at about 10 per cent a year.

Of course, the county could go to other alternatives such as selling bonds on the open market. If that were the case, taxes might have to be raised to pay off the bonds.

Either way, or a number of other alternatives available, the taxpayer will end up footing the bill.

But, early indications that the referendum should pass with relative ease point to the probability that the county's reorganization of its schools should have a clear path to the future.



School Bond Vote Set for March 19

An order for a \$6.5 million bond referendum to finance a new high school in Albemarle County was signed Friday by Circuit Court Judge David F. Berry.

The date of the referendum vote was set for March 19.

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors had approved the bond issue at its meeting last week.

If the referendum passes, a new high school will be built in western Albemarle across from the Henley and Brownsville School sites.

School Superintendent Clarence S. McClure commented that the official date was "a little later than he had expected," but said the later date "would open up the possibility for additional meetings with citizens of Albemarle County to discuss the need for a second high school."

He added that he would welcome any opportunity to meet with civic groups or parent-teacher organizations for the purpose of "better informing the electorate of Albemarle about the conditions in the school system that need to be improved

and can be improved with the addition of a second high school."

Meeting Planned On Vepco Fault

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, will meet in Lynchburg March 5 to review information concerning the faulting at Vepco's North Anna Power Station.

The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn North.

The ACRS is the body charged with assuring the safety of nuclear power plants in the United States. It is independent of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Members of the North Anna Environmental Coalition will attend the meeting and make a statement, according to a spokesman for the group.

The hearing was originally scheduled for Jan. 9 but was cancelled because the committee's staff wanted more information on the faulting.

The Daily Progress

Charlottesville,
Virginia

Sunday Morning,
March 10, 1974

A4

George Bowles, Editorial Page Editor

The Albemarle School Bond Question-

Is There An Alternative?

As the citizens of Albemarle County prepare to go to the polls March 19 to vote on a \$6.5 million dollar bond referendum to build a new high school for the county, they might wish to consider an alternative solution to the system's classroom shortage.

While the county school system is clamoring for badly needed space to house its rising student population, the city school system is pondering the future of classroom space not needed by city schools.

The student population in city schools is declining at a rate of about 200 per year. This decline is projected to continue until at least the 1976-77 school year. In county schools an increase of 100 students per year for the past five years has been felt in grades 10 through 12 alone. Grade 9 has experienced an annual increase of 50 students per year.

Albemarle High School can accommodate 1,950 students when additions are completed, but the expected enrollment is put at around 2,900 students for the 1976-77, school year. In that year the proposed Western Albemarle High School would open its doors. That proposed school anticipates housing about 1,200 students, and could house as many as 1,350 at capacity.

The new Charlottesville High School has the core facilities for 2,000 students. However, next year only about 1,900 students are expected.

In the 1976-77 school year, the city schools anticipate about 2,004 students at the new Charlottesville High School, assuming that population trends continue.

An interesting thought.

The new Charlottesville High School, with some expansion, might be able to absorb 1,000 additional students. (The 1,000 figure is, precisely the difference between Albemarle High School's capacity and the expected enrollment for 1976-77.)

Perhaps the city school system could accept

at least some of the Albemarle schools' overflow. This idea would of course, involve extensive busing, but it might save funds and promote a greater cooperation between the localities and their governments.

Other school space might also be available.

The city school administration has no need of McGuffey School, and Jefferson School may also be freed from most city school activities. The future of Lane is under continuing debate, but recommendations for a regional library, a civic auditorium and gym, and central office space for the city school administration would fill the building.

Speculating further on the idea of using city school space for county students, McGuffey has space for a maximum of 360 students, and Jefferson School can house, at capacity, 670 students. The problem here is that both McGuffey and Jefferson are elementary schools, and a conversion to secondary education would require extensive (and expensive) renovation.

But the possibility of cooperation between the city and county school systems still exists. The two systems should be applauded for their joint effort on the Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center, but there is still room for further joint efforts.

The city schools have the room — the county schools don't.

The bond referendum this year has been quiet, so quiet it can hardly be considered an issue. If there is an issue at hand, it is not the need for county secondary school facilities.

Perhaps the bond vote has caused little or no stir because the voters believe there is no alternative, no choice involved in the 6.5 million referendum.

But there are many factors to consider, and one of them is a possible joint effort between the city and county schools to utilize buildings that are now available.

'Least Expensive' Way

Supervisors Push For Bond Support

By BEN CRITZER
of The Progress Staff

In light of what was termed "confusion" on the part of Albemarle residents over the March 19 school bond referendum, the chairman of the Albemarle Board of Supervisors Wednesday urged citizen support for construction of a new county high school.

Board chairman Gordon Wheeler, speaking during an afternoon county budget-work session, cited what he called "some confusion" on the part of the citizens about what the March 19 \$6.5 million bond vote means.

Wheeler said he had received indications that county residents felt the balloting might just be a decision on how to finance the proposed school, not on the question of whether or not to build the facility.

"My intention is that it (the school) would not be built (without a favorable vote)," Wheeler said.

However, School Superintendent Clarence McClure told the board Wednesday in his

opinion the school was needed and would be built eventually. Delay, McClure said, would be costly.

"You (the board) will build the school... the population is here. I know we have a need that has to be met. The longer it (construction) is put off, the more (the school) will cost," McClure said.

Samuel Miller Supervisor Gerald Fisher cautioned against preempting the vote of the people in case the referendum fails.

"I will personally vote for the bond," Fisher said. But if it fails to pass, the board might have to take another look at the proposed school project, he said.

When asked by Wheeler for his opinion on the bond, Jack Jouett Supervisor Stuart Carwile said he was not willing to state he would not support school construction by any alternate financing method if the bond vote failed.

Charlottesville Supervisor Lloyd Wood backed up Carwile's view that the bond referendum method of financing was the

least expensive way to pay for the construction.

"If there is not another school to absorb (student population); we will have a most difficult time," Wood said.

Wheeler said after the meeting that county residents should realize if the bond vote fails the board "won't turn around the

next day" and finance the school construction through other methods.

But Wheeler would not preclude the possibility that a decision might be made by the board next year to finance school construction by an alternate method if funds were available.

State/Local & Area

Thursday Afternoon, March 14, 1974

Charlottesville, Virginia—D1

Restrictions Urged On School Parking

Neighbors of the new school days on most of the Charlottesville High School told streets bordering the new

Your Right To Say It

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and others who share his feelings.

This leash law would not have caused so much friction to the Crozet community and problems to our already overworked county supervisors, if this opposing group would have more concern and respect of their fellow neighbors. We without dogs pay taxes also Mr. Farish; and could do away with alot of work for the game warden, if dogs were leashed.

I detest the idea of comparing dogs and children, but one thing for certain, if my child or others could be a nuisance to their neighbors, such as destroying their property, etc., these children would be corrected and the problem hopefully would no longer exist.

Now, when it comes to dumb animals, the problem is transferred to the owners. All we are asking, is to please have the same respect for us as we have shown. Put your dogs on a leash, or we will lose out respect for those of you who now have dogs running at large.

We've grown tired of cleaning after dogs, replacing flowers, shrubbery, having to erect fences for child's protection, etc. Also we hope your children will not be victimized by a driver avoiding dogs lying in the streets.

This is a small sample of our feelings, and no longer wish to tolerate. Could you the opposing group, honestly, want to continue your fight against this leash ordinance?

Mrs. B. D. Graves
and concerned citizens of Orchard Acres

Timely Suggestions

Editor, The Daily Progress:

The Progress deserves a compliment for the efforts made recently to keep citizens

weren't, I wouldn't make such comments.

(Ms.) Kay Peaslee
Charlottesville

For Bonds And Merger

Editor, The Daily Progress:

The March 10 editorial in your paper on the Albemarle school bond question makes a provocative suggestion: that extra classroom space in the city schools could be used to help the county solve its student over-population problem. There is much to be said for a joint city-county approach to solving local problems; indeed, the most desirable step at this point might be a merger of the two school systems.

The only flaw in this suggestion is that such steps take time — many years, judging by the citizen sentiment shown in the recent vote on merging the two governments — and the county school population continues to increase year by year. The average annual increase over the past 10 years was just over 300 students (not counting the 531 kindergarteners who entered school last fall).

Building a new school also takes time. If the county voters approve the bond issue next Tuesday, the new high school will not be ready for occupancy before 1976. If county citizens hope to avoid future double shifts in already over-crowded Albemarle High School, they should first vote for the school bonds next Tuesday and then devote their efforts toward convincing their fellow citizens of the logical necessity of an eventual merger of the two school systems.

Elizabeth B. Benzinger
Rolf Benzinger
Charlottesville

Your Right To Say It

Readers Support School Bonds

Editor, The Daily Progress:

The March 10th editorial in The Daily Progress poses the question, "Is there an alternative" to the bond issue for a new high school in Albemarle County. The Albemarle County School Board has considered this question very carefully and has concluded that the alternatives available are not conducive to quality education for the students of the county.

One alternative would be to add to the Albemarle High School building which was designed for 1,000 students in 1952 and since then has almost had its capacity doubled. Supporting spaces such as corridors and the gymnasium are inadequate. Another alternative would be to have students attend high school in two shifts, one running from early in the morning to the middle of the day and the other from the middle of the day into the evening. In localities where the latter alternative has been tried, it has been quickly abandoned as soon as construction of new facilities could be completed.

The use of City Schools for County students as suggested in The Daily Progress editorial is not the answer. City schools such as McGuffey and Jefferson are not suitable for high school use because of the age, size and elementary school design of these buildings. Lane High School is being considered for other uses by the City. Even if it were available, expensive renovation would be necessary before it could be used as a high school for Albemarle County students. The new City high school will be near its current capacity next year when the school opens and would not even offer temporary use by the County without an addition to the building. Why should additions be made to city facilities to house county students?

The editorial states that an addition to the new city high school for 1,000 more students would be necessary to accommodate the County's overflow. Such an addition would not be free. As a matter of fact, the introduction of an additional 1,000 students to the new City high school would require larger facilities such as parking lots, practice fields and other athletic facilities, and even perhaps the school auditorium. For an amount similar to the cost of the suggested addition and its supporting facilities the County can build the high school which is being proposed in western Albemarle County and have the benefit of reducing transportation times, distances and costs for hundreds of the students in that area.

Even with the addition suggested by the editorial, all City and County high school facilities would be full in 1976. How would growth in enrollments be handled after that? In the editorial suggesting that County high school students be transported indefinitely for long distances to two super high schools: Albemarle High School and the new Charlottesville High School.

Any temporary alternative chosen will only delay the inevitable. The delay will result in a higher cost to the taxpayers for the building because of inflation in the cost of construction which is currently running at about 13 per cent per year. Even more important to the quality of education in Albemarle County is the fact that a delay will cause continued and increasing crowded conditions in elementary schools, junior high schools and at the high school.

Having discussed the question of merger at many meetings around the County, members of the school administration and School Board are convinced that the people of Albemarle County wish to maintain a separate school system independent of the City school system. A serious effort to revive the merger issue could take years. The County school system cannot sit by and wait until the merger issue is bought up and settled again. Neither The Daily Progress nor any other organization or individual has challenged the need for additional high school space in Albemarle County. This need is a fact which should be faced squarely while there is time to build a school before serious crowding occurs in the high school and at all other levels of education in the County.

Both the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors and School Board have unanimously approved the bond issue as the best method for constructing a new high school. Positive action now is necessary if this school is to be completed by 1976 and before serious overcrowding occurs.

The School Board's plan for reorganization of the school system and improving the curriculum for elementary students and middle school students hinges upon the construction of this new school by 1976. This part of the School Board's building program is already one year behind schedule. Any further delay will be detrimental to the quality of education offered to the children and youth of Albemarle County.

The bond referendum will be held on Tuesday, March 19. Those citizens who support quality public education for Albemarle County should not be lulled into believing that this new high school will automatically be constructed. Their votes will be needed to approve this important bond issue.

Clarence S. McCure
Superintendent
Albemarle County Schools

Editor, The Daily Progress:

I want to urge my fellow citizens to turn out and vote for the upcoming Albemarle County school bond issue. I don't think that anyone can seriously question the need for additional school facilities. The population of the county has grown at a rate exceeding that of the State and conservative projections indicate more of the same. Increasing school enrollment is inevitable and must be accommodated soon if we are

to avoid crowded classrooms which generate friction, frustration, hostility and other conditions inimical to good education.

Our school board has presented a facilities and financial plan to meet the problem that is upon us. They propose a high school in the western part of the county financed by the lowest cost bond issue. At the eleventh hour we have heard alternative proposals. I feel that the plan is now beyond the debatable stage. Our dedicated school board has spent many months planning and deliberating and offered ample opportunity for public input. They have considered alternative uses of existing facilities, financing plans, the needs of the students and other many factors including the burden on the taxpayer. Their decision represents hours of hard work. They now deserve our support and not repudiation.

Many of us may be unhappy about the county's pattern of growth and attendant taxes. In my opinion penalizing the kids is not a sensible way to protest. Let's vote for the bond issue.

James B. Murray,
Earlysville, Va.

Editor, The Daily Progress:

The League Of Women Voters strongly urges all Albemarle County citizens to vote "Yes" for the school bond referendum. Tuesday, March 19, 1974.

The bonds are needed to alleviate an already capacity population at the high school level, to facilitate the reorganizational plan adopted by the school board, and to improve the transportation situation for western Albemarle students.

Will Rogers Says...

I have been accused of being worried over this inflation I wasn't worried. I was just "confused". There is quite a difference.

When you are worried, you know what you are worried about, but when you are confused you don't know enough about a thing to be worried.

But even my confusion is all over now. Everybody I meet has explained this whole inflation thing so clearly that now I am going around explaining it myself.

You see medical science has developed two ways of actually tracing insanity. One is if the patient cuts out paper dolls and the other is if the patient says: "I will tell you what this economic business really means."

April, 1933

Will Rogers

The State Constitution's Standards of Quality have required by law the addition of kindergarten classes which Albemarle schools provided this school year. These additions have now crowded elementary (K-6) classroom space. To alleviate this condition and follow the middle school concept of re-organization the 6th grade classes will move to the middle schools (6-7-8 grades), now the Junior high schools, and the 9th graders will move to the senior high organization. Adding 9th graders to the 10-11-12 grade senior high organization adds an additional grade population to an already capacity situation. Without the new high school, the overcrowding, like falling dominoes, will cause concerns from the high school all the way to kindergarten.

The rate of overall school enrollment has been rising consistently in the county. With the planned county growth, the school board anticipates that the new second high school should meet present needs and projected increases.

A bond issue is the most economical method for any major building program. The county's excellent AA credit rating means investors are better assured of prompt payment and would be willing to buy bonds at a lower interest rate than they would from a locality with a less favorable rating.

Therefore, the county's educational needs can best be met the most economical way for all citizens by voting "YES" on the school bond referendum Tuesday, March 19, 1974.

Marion Rabinowitz,
President,
League of Women Voters

Editor, The Daily Progress:

I would like to urge the voters of Albemarle County to go to the polls Tuesday, March 19, and vote for the school bond. We need the new high school at the earliest possible date.

There have been many last minute suggestions that we hold off and look at some alternate measure. Tell me why these possibilities were not fully explored by The Daily Progress early enough for the voters to make a rational decision?

In talking to Charlottesville school officials, I find that their new high school is being built on an inadequate site, and to expand the building would not improve the situation. What makes you think the residents of this area are willing to sacrifice the quality of their neighborhood to accommodate more than a thousand additional students? The small, ancient McGuffey School is the only school the city is prepared to relinquish. It was designed as an elementary school. How much money would it take to purchase this building and if possible, renovate it so it will meet the State's standards for a high school? Surely, The Progress is not going to suggest we forego accreditation to save a few pennies. How much extra fuel will the county have to use to transport these children the extra distance? The most

important question to be answered is, would the quality of education for all city and county students suffer? To vote no on the bond issue before the answers to these questions are known would be a grave injustice to the children of Albemarle County.

Experience shows, one of the most effective ways to save money on school construction is to sell bonds when the market is favorable. Be a responsible citizen and go to the polls on March 19, vote yes and give our Supervisors the power to issue the bonds.

Mary Jo Ayers
Charlottesville, Va.

Editor, The Daily Progress:

Does anybody doubt the overcrowded conditions existing at Albemarle High School or seriously question Albemarle County's need for a second high school? If so, let him visit the school for a day.

If we agree that a new facility is needed, what is the most economical way to attain it? It has been suggested that the county share some of the City's "excess" capacity, but that is a delusion. Plans for the use of all City facilities are now in progress and the older facilities do not meet the criteria of the State Board of Education.

Obviously we cannot finance a new high school out of current budgets, the taxpayers would not be willing to bear the expense. The County does not have sufficient capital improvement funds for a project of this magnitude. Therefore some form of borrowing must be employed.

The proposed bond issue is the least expensive form of borrowing available. Loans from the State Literary Fund bear interest at only 3 per cent but are limited to \$750,000. Funds may also be borrowed from the reserves of the Virginia Supplemental Retirement System but at an interest rate considerably in excess of that which can be obtained by Albemarle County in the competitive bond market. Then too, the County might turn to the Virginia Public School Authority for funding but that state agency is unable to make loans to localities if they can obtain a lower financing cost in the open market and Albemarle can.

The school needs to be built and I believe it will be built regardless of the outcome of Tuesday's referendum. It should be remembered that this vote is not to determine whether or not a new school will be built but rather if it will be financed in the most economical way. I will support the bond issue and I hope a majority of voters will join me.

Forbes B. Reback
Earlysville

Editor, The Daily Progress:

The answer to your question, "Is there an alternative (to the Albemarle school bond issue)?" is, "NO, there is no sensible alternative."

This question has been carefully studied by the School Board and its recommendations have been endorsed by the

League of Women Voters, Albemarle Education Association, Citizens for Superior Albemarle Schools and others.

As concerns a unitary government, it would be several years before such a proposal could be presented to the voters. There is no strong indication that such a move is desired by the citizens of either locality. There is no firm basis for predicting that a city-county merger would erase the need for our proposed high school.

What is real, however, is the number of students in Albemarle County schools. In 1976, we will have 3000 children at the high school level. Albemarle High will have a capacity of 1950.

A new high school is needed to insure quality education. This would be highly unlikely with 360 students at a renovated McGuffey, 470 at a renovated Jefferson and 3000 at an expanded Charlottesville High.

It is most desirable to locate a new school near students' homes, to decrease time spent on the bus. In terms of the fuel crisis, safety, and the chance to participate in sports and other after school activities, a county school in the county and not in the middle of Charlottesville is necessary.

We will need more high school space in two years. The time to act is now, before double sessions force construction at a much higher cost. I urge county residents to vote YES on March 19th.

Susan Bender
Charlottesville

The Daily Progress

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Your Right To Say It

Favors Bonds

Editor: The Daily Progress:

Probably few people could be accused of being against quality education, of being against convenience for our children, of being against long range planning, of being against logical grouping of grade levels, or of being against doing the best job for the least cost. Yet it seems to me that if I vote against the bond referendum for the new Albemarle High School that I would be voting against all these things.

Our "scheming educators", as Mr. Coffman called them, have worked out a program designed to eliminate the need for any major construction for some time to come by reducing overcrowding at all grade levels. Our elementary schools, squeezed this year by the addition of kindergartens, will have breathing space again with the 6th grades moving into the new "middle schools". Now that our state is joining the rest of the nation in dropping the use of the Carnegie credit unit at the eighth grade level, it makes perfect sense to group grades 9-12 together since they will be the only ones needing to function with a 55 minute class period, even though this means adding a grade to the high school. The middle schools, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, will thereby be able to plan more flexible programs designed to be a bridge between the freedom of the elementary system and the rigidity of the high school curriculum. I just can't be against a plan that stands to benefit quality education at all levels.

The problem then is how to house the 3,000 Albemarle high school students we will have by 1976, a figure not based on wild growth projections but on actual present enrollments. The idea of adding 1,000 of these students to Charlottesville's already large high school is almost frightening. We could be dealing with 3,000 students there also; students who could be lost in the forest of depersonalized "big city" style education during their most critical years when a school should offer many opportunities for development beyond academic efficiency. But the proposition also raises a host of other questions: Would Albemarle teachers be employed there? If so—would they be paid at the higher Charlottesville pay scale? How would tuition figures be arrived at? Would it really save money? Hasn't experience shown that making an addition of such a size is nearly as expensive as starting over on a new site? Even if you added new classrooms, what of the lack of proper core facilities for so many? And what of busing? Wouldn't we soon regret the long term additional transportation expense? Building a high school adjacent to the existing Brownsville-Henley complex will reduce long costly bus rides for a great many of our students. I find it hard to be against that.

If we defeat this bond referendum, we will be voting for increased costs.

Albemarle County, fortunately has a "Double A" credit rating which means we can sell bonds at a low interest rate. But a defeat would likely mean that it would be some time before plans would go forward again and when they do if alternative methods of financing are sought, they are almost certain to be more, if not less, expensive. Albemarle is growing. The student needs are here now. Sooner or later we will have to accommodate them. Building costs are rising. Every year we wait could mean as much as 13 per cent more for the same structure. And in the meantime, our children will have less than we could and should provide them. (Would we like to have to consider split sessions or year round school terms? It'll cost us each a little—estimates run around \$20.00 per year for a \$30,000 house—but the longer I look at the 6.5 million figure, the more it seems the cheapest way to do a job that must be done. And no one could accuse me of being against saving money.

Flora Patterson
Charlottesville

O.A.R. Support Urged

Editor: The Daily Progress:

I would like to commend the staff of the Offender Aid and Restoration program (OAR) for sponsoring the Second Annual Corrections Conference at the University of Virginia last weekend. This conference focused on the need for community based treatment programs throughout our state. Both OAR and the Community Attention Home program are working to provide better alternatives to incarcerating juveniles and adults in jails, detention facilities and state training schools.

The Offender Aid and Restoration program deserves the full support and participation of the Charlottesville community.

Gary W. Duncan, Director
Community Attention Home, Inc.
Charlottesville

Letter To The Governor

Editor: The Daily Progress:

I am enclosing a letter to Governor Godwin which speaks for many of us emergency personnel:

Dear Governor Godwin,

As a physician on call to the operating room and emergency room, I need to have my car ready at all times. Many of my trips are at night and on Sunday. I am at work at 7:30 a.m. before the gas lines open and when I finish, the pumps are closed.

Other states have a priority system for emergency personnel. It is completely irresponsible of you not to have set up such a system for Virginia. Out of consideration for the emergency medical care of Virginians I hope you will make haste to correct this.

Patricia M. Andrews, M.D.
Charlottesville

ALBEMARLE TAXPAYERS

THE WESTERN ALBEMARLE TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
ASKS YOU TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

- Your property taxes are about to be increased by 39 percent this year.
- The proposed school bond issue, if approved, would add another 7 percent—for a total increase of 46 percent.
- This additional tax due to the bonds would burden taxpayers for the entire estimated 20-30 year life of the bonds.
- A new high school can be paid for without the bonds by a reallocation of existing funds coupled with a budgetary increase for a few years if necessary.
- Another alternative to building a new high school is to purchase or lease existing facilities in the city.

Should property owners be burdened with further long term debt in a time of inflation and future economic uncertainty, or should alternatives be pursued?

MAKE YOUR CONVICTIONS KNOWN!

VOTE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Turnout Light as Voters Decide School Bond Issue

By The Progress Staff

The voter mandate sought by the Albemarle Board of Supervisors in support of today's \$6.5 million school bond

referendum started fizzling out early this morning under the weight of apparent voter apathy.

Early indications from around Albemarle County point to the probability of a light voter turnout and only token resistance to passage of the bond referendum for construction of a new high school in western Albemarle.

By 9:30 a.m., voting officials at many polling precincts were predicting a less than enthusiastic voter response.

At the Crozet Precinct, where

the Brownsville Elementary polls stand watch directly across from the new school's proposed site, chief official Graham Tull reported the turnout "about as poor as I've ever seen it" in his seven or eight years of poll work.

Only 81 persons had cast ballots by 9:10 a.m., compared to about 250 at the same time during the November 1973 elections, he said.

"We didn't even have a voter until 6:30 a.m.," he said. "In the

See VOTE, Page B10

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tacted this morning about the
ochland High's red-faced prin-
Taylor, denied that anyone so

★ Vote

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other elections, people are standing in line at 6 a.m."

Tull put the expected total for the Crozet Precinct at 500, "but I think I'm high," he said.

"If we don't have over 100 in the first two hours, we don't do well," he said.

In contrast, some 1,180 citizens streamed to the Brownsville polling station in the last election.

Things were just as dismal at the Ivy precinct.

Precinct worker Tom Keith described voter participation as "extremely light," with only 85 citizens exercising their right to vote in the referendum as of 9 a.m.

Over 1,200 Ivy residents cast ballots in the November election, but Keith doubted the total today would reach over 400.

Pollsters from the county's largest voting district, Woodbrook, reported 150 votes tallied at 9:30 this morning. There are approximately 3600 registered voters in the district.

At the same time, there were 20 votes tallied in the Monticello Precinct of the Scottsville District.

Pollsters in Scottsville could only describe the meager 14 votes tallied there by 9:30 this morning as a sign of indifference.

Out of an estimated 2,300 registered voters in the Jack Jouett District, only 52 had showed at the polls by 9:30 this morning. Again, the description offered was "very, very, light."

County School Supt. Clarence McClure Monday said he did not expect an "extremely" heavy turnout for the referendum. McClure said there had not been large turnouts for meetings held during the month by county officials at various locations around the county to explain what the referendum meant.

He indicated there appeared to be little voter interest in the issue.

McClure went on to say voting may be light because today's balloting is one of the few times where the school issue is the only item being voted on.

In the past, local or state elections on the same ballot as a bond referendum have brought out the voters, McClure said.

According to County Registrar Rachel Brown, the polls will be open until 7 p.m.

Mrs. Brown said late registrations, sometimes an indication of voter interest, have not been great for the bond referendum. She attributed the apparent lack of interest to the fact that the vote was not held in conjunction with a general election.

She said, however, there had been an increase in registration by young voters.

Programs in the high school this year alerted students of their voting qualifications. According to Mrs. Brown, 17-year-olds can vote in this election as long as they will be 18 years old in time to be eligible to vote in the next general election.

Last week, in a disjointed message to the voters, the Albemarle Board of Supervisors urged support of the referen-

dum. The supervisors, however, would not preclude the possibility that alternate financing for the project might be found if the bond referendum failed.

Jailer Pleads Innocent

STAUNTON (AP)—The trial of former Augusta County Jailer William F. Iddings on a charge of negligence in the Oct. 16 escape of convicted kidnaper James Ellsworth Jones has been set for May 2 in Augusta County Circuit Court.

Iddings pleaded innocent to the charge Monday after Judge William S. Moffett had rejected a defense motion for a change

of venue. He overruled the motion pending the filing of newspaper clippings by the defense to substantiate its claim of prejudicial publicity.

Defense counsel argued that "because of the very vicious publicity, I would not ask for a trial by jury in this jurisdiction." He said he couldn't conceive of "those press reports not being prejudicial to a jury."

But the Commonwealth argued that "there's been nothing presented to this court today to suggest this. I haven't seen anything about this in the paper for four months and 28 days."

Saying he believes the indictment to be worded in the language of the applicable state law, Moffett also turned down a defense motion to dismiss the indictment against Iddings as "a vague and insufficient indictment which does not state an indictable offense."

Both the court and the Commonwealth requested a jury trial.



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ELJO'S

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Voter Turnout Skimpy 19 Per Cent

Bond a 2-1 Choice

By BEN CRITZER
and MARIFLO STEPHENS
of The Progress Staff

A skimpy 19 per cent of Albemarle County's voters turned out Tuesday to cast what became a 2-to-1 margin in favor of bond financing for the proposed \$6.5 million Western Albemarle High School.

In an unofficial tally, voters registered 2,144 votes in favor and 1,175 against in the Tuesday referendum.

County School Supt. Clarence McClure Tuesday night said he was disappointed in the voter turn-out, but "delighted" at the final outcome.

McClure said the county school board and school administration were "grateful to the people for their support." He said the county would now "move forward with plans and construction and make every effort to have this new facility available for the opening of school in 1976."

Voter support appeared strongest in the four districts closest to the location of the proposed school.

The heavily populated Charlottesville District voted almost 4-to-1 in favor of the referendum issue.

Voters in Jack Jouett District responded with a 3-to-1 affirmation.

Both Samuel Miller and

Whitehall District voters registered 2-to-1 approval.

On the other hand, voters in Scottsville District opposed the bond issue by a margin of more than 60 votes out of the 340 votes cast in that district.

Albemarle County officials were pleased that the bond referendum passed, but all expressed disappointment in the voter turn-out.

Supervisor Lloyd Wood was happy with the margin of victory and said he was "pleased that my district (Charlottesville) turned out so well, it shows where the strongest support is."

"A lot of the credit," Wood

added, "goes to the school board members and McClure for making the information clear to the people."

Albemarle County School Board Chairman Carl Van Fossen was "elated" over the victory, but said he was "sorry more people aren't interested in what's happening in their schools." Van Fossen said he was "very very pleased" with the 2-to-1 margin of victory.

"I was frankly concerned that it would not pass," said supervisor Gerald Fisher, "so I was pleasantly surprised."

Board of Supervisor Chairman Gordon Wheeler said, "I'm

delighted and pleased that it passed, but disappointed with the voter turn-out."

The new high school, scheduled to open in September 1976, will be located across from Henley Junior High School at Brownsville. Plans now are to build to a capacity of 1,350 to 1,500 students, depending on state requirements for student space. For the first year of operation, Western Albemarle High School is expected to house around 1,200 students.

The unofficial totals in the balloting received by the County General Registrar's Office were listed by district and precinct

with favorable votes recorded first):

— Charlottesville District: Woodbrook: 580-139.

— Jack Jouett District: Jack Jouett: 266-88.

— Samuel Miller District: Ivy: 287-105; North Garden: 69-65; Batesville: 87-34.

— White Hall District: Crozet: 386-143; Free Union: 53-63.

— Rivanna District: Keswick: 87-58; Stony Point: 22-36; Earlysville: 71-83; Free Bridge: 98-56.

— Scottsville District: Scottsville: 34-72; Monticello: 40-56; Porters: 32-70; Covasville: 32-7.

Grand Jury Meets

After Losing 6 Indictments

RICHMOND (AP)—A special grand jury that indicted six Virginia prison officials on charges of misconduct in office was to reconvene today for its first meeting since all six indictments were dismissed.

Charges were dismissed Tuesday against the last of the six officials charged with will-

ful misconduct in office — Dennis Gallagher, suspended aide to the director of the Division of Corrections.

Circuit Court Judge James B. Wilkinson said he was throwing out the charges because the indictment against Gallagher was too vague and did not spell out the specific charges against him.

The meeting of the grand jury today was called by foreman Michael Cummings Jr., apparently to discuss what tack the Richmond Circuit Court grand jury should take in light of the unsuccessful efforts to bring the officials to trial.

Judges J. Randolph Tucker, James M. Lumpkin and Wilkinson all have emphasized that

the officials.

The indictments were drawn up by Richmond Commonwealth's Atty. Aubrey M. Davis Jr. as adviser to the grand jury. But Davis, who under law was not privy to the testimony heard by the grand jury and could not be present during examination of witnesses, did not ask the jury to