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10/7/09
THE DEKALB

Browns Mill School Parents Quiz Board On Problems

By SPENCER RAGSDALE
Gwendolyn Glass, co-president of the newly opened Browns Mill Elementary School in south DeKalb, raised several concerns of parents at the DeKalb Board of Education's work session last Monday night.

Mrs. Glass said the school opened with 730 students this fall and the new magnet school that will open in January will bring another 200 students to the school. But, she said, there is no assistant principal at the school. She said that there is no art or music teacher at Browns Mill. She asked when they would get additional staff.

Superintendent Robert R. Freeman said that there is currently an assistant principal at Browns Mill, and it is the intention that there will always be an assistant principal there. He said the confusion may have come from unfounded rumors that the current assistant principal may leave Browns Mill to go to Salem Road Junior High when it opens. Dr. Freeman said if that move takes place, a replacement assistant principal will be assigned to Browns Mill.

On the assignment of an art and music teacher, Dr. Freeman said that choice is left to the discretion of the principal at each school. Each principal gets the number of instructional staff determined by enrollment, but the principal has the choice of which disciplines are represented. If the principal chooses to have a math or English teacher instead of a physical education or art teacher, this is a choice made at each school.

Mrs. Glass said that the media center, the library, is not yet completed and asked why not.

Administrator Frank Winstead said that there had been a problem with construction. When the bookcases for the library were delivered, it was discovered that there were no backs to the book cases. He said the books were not shelved until the problem with backs to the bookcases was resolved. Mr. Winstead said that the proper case-work is now in place and that parent volunteers had helped to shelve the books and the media center is now in operation.

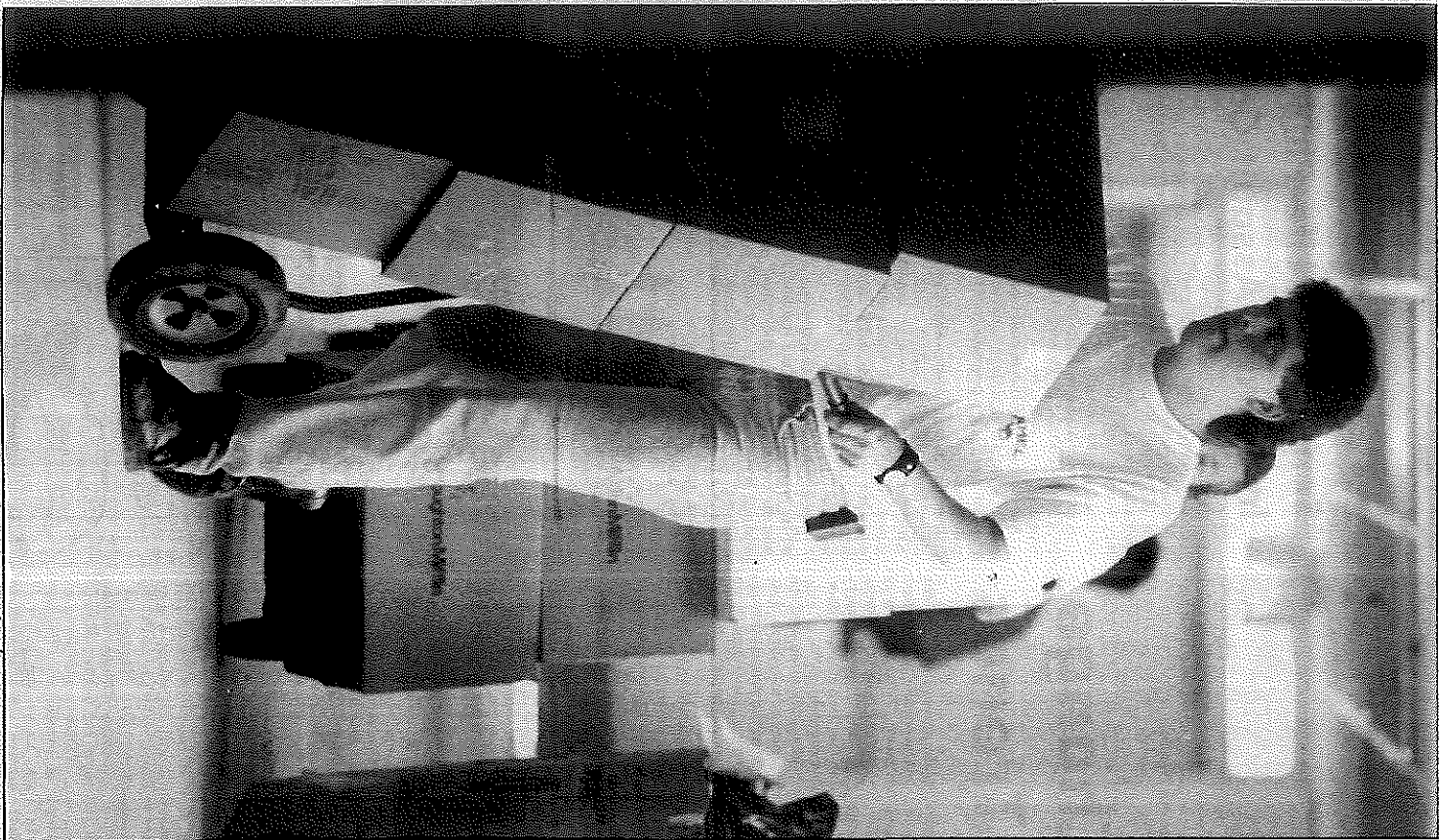
Mrs. Glass said that since the school is new, many motorists are

not slowing down near the school, and as yet no sidewalks have been built; there are no crossing guards, nor crossing signs.

School Board Chair Norman Bergman said that the school system has no control over sidewalks, crossing signs or crossing guards. Those are provided by the DeKalb County government.

"We have no control over that," Mrs. Bergman said, "but we will sure write a letter to the county and see what can be done. We can't do it ourselves, but we can sure make the request..." for action.

Board member Phil McGregor said he would raise the question of when the crossing guards, signs and sidewalks would be in place at the very next meeting of the School-County Liaison Committee meeting.



Bob News Service 8/15/90
School Starts August 22 In DeKalb

NEWSPHOTO BY JIM COOK JR.

Tim Roberts covers student the clock in our books and supplies, including books, papers, 25111

Two new schools + four additional add up to expanded school system

The DeKalb school system is accelerating its program of construction of new space, and modernization of existing space

receiving certification for design from the variety of regulatory agencies, through actual building, to the day the

the system's nine new magnet schools that also open this fall.

Salem Road 65% Complete
Salem Road Junior High

education fac:
building, then
instructional
including a 4

a junior high building, 65 percent of the cost depending on the building for students in February of 1991. Classroom unit Salem High should accommodate 100 students. The building was designed for high school students and will have classrooms for arts, art, music and science labs, business education and all teach traditional subjects. Computers will also be used in science labs and art.

with a soccer field in the center. It is anticipated that the running track will be open after school for community walkers and joggers. There are also a field for baseball, and a softball field. There will be two tennis courts.

Salem Road Junior High is being built with local funds, not bond issue money.

Four Renovations By Aug. 22
Four major renovation projects should be completed by the time school opens Aug. 22. Lakeside High had a \$400,000 renovation last year. This summer's renovation, costing \$600,000 in bond money, is on schedule. The renovation was done in two

Cary Reynolds Elementary
School renovation and modernization has been completed and will be ready for students. It cost \$600,000 in bond funds.

The 16 classroom addition to Murphey Candler Elementary School is completed. This \$1 million bond issue project also included taking the school off septic tank, and running a sewer line one-half mile to connect it to the county's sewer system.

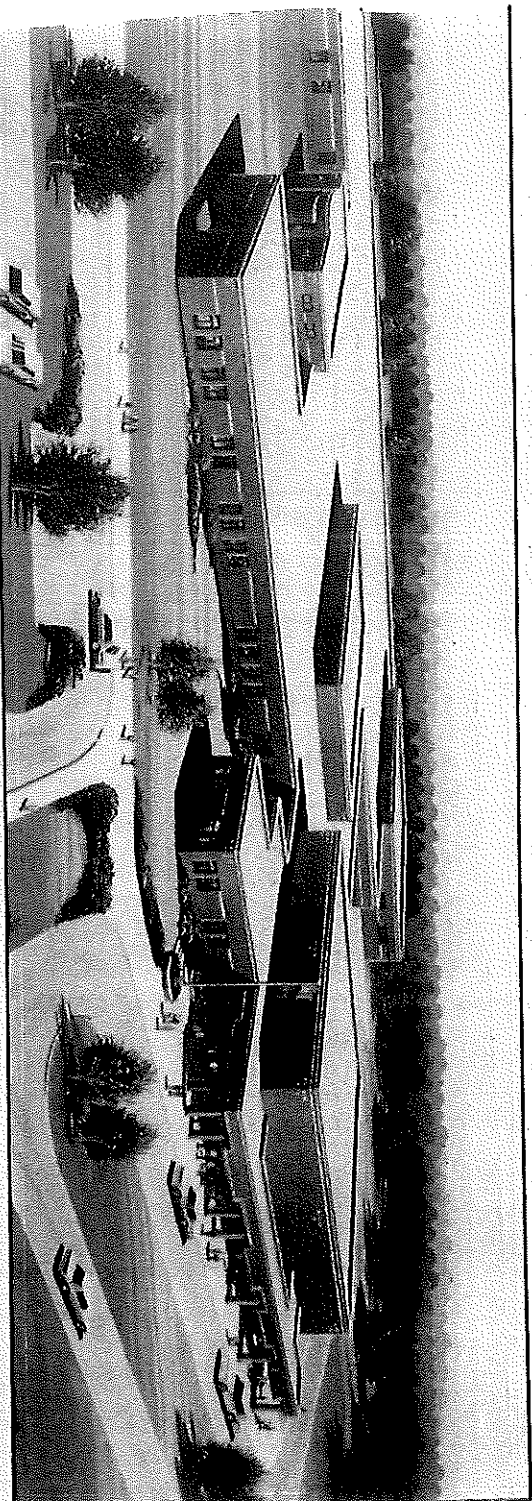
Indian Creek Elementary
School will have a brand new seven room addition ready for the first day of classes, plus renovation and modernization of the existing building. This \$950,000 project came from

bond funds. Eight or nine new rooms will open by October 1, and the remaining eight classrooms will open between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The renovation of Peachcrest Elementary School, costing \$450,000, will be ready for the start of classes.

Planning, design and other preliminary works is now in the works for four new schools: Bellingrath Elementary, Chapel Hill Junior High, Stephenson Road Area High, and Rock Springs Elementary. Planning is now being done for an addition to Rock Chapel Elementary.

A site has been acquired for the Stephenson Road Junior High School.



itect's concept of how the new Salem Road Junior High when it is completed. The 50 classroom unit building will opens when it is opened in January or February of 1991. The

building will contain Industrial art, art, music, homemaking, science, computer, math and business education labs. It will also have a 400 meter outdoor track, soccer, baseball and softball fields plus two tennis courts.

to keep the physical facilities the best in Georgia.

Last year voters approved a \$98 million bond issue for capital projects for the system. Approximately \$58 to \$60 million of these funds will be used to build brand new schools, classroom additions to existing schools, and to renovate and modernize existing schools. The balance of the money from the bond issue will be used for the construction of outdoor physical education facilities at elementary schools, the addition of computers and computer programs, to purchase land for new buildings, and for "environmental improvements." Under environmental improvements will be smaller building improvement projects ranging from upgrading water pipes to replacing heating/air conditioning units to asbestos removal.

DeKalb's enrollment has been holding at a steady 72,000 overall in the system, but the children are not where the buildings are located. The result has been the closing of some schools in north DeKalb, and overcrowding of some schools in south DeKalb. As a temporary measure this year 68 mobile classrooms have been purchase to accomodate enrollment until construction can be completed.

As a rule of thumb, it takes three years to construct a new school, from the time the site is acquired, through design,

doors open for the first student.

Last year the new Pine Ridge Elementary School was opened with 40 classroom units. It was built with local funds, not bond issue money. Also completed last year were two major renovations, Cross Keys and Hooper Alexander.

Ten New Schools Along I-20

The bond issue envisions new construction along the I-20 corridor to meeting enrollment growth. Five new schools are planned just north of I-20 and five are planned just south of I-20.

On this year's agenda are the opening of three classroom additions, four renovations, and opening two news schools. In addition four new schools, plus a classroom addition are in the first stages of planning and design.

The flagship of this year's construction plan is the Browns Mill Road Elementary School. Doors will swing open for students when the bell rings for the first day of classes on Aug. 22. The building is being opened ahead of schedule. Despite the three year schedule for normal school construction, Browns Mill was completed in under two years — the actual construction time was 10 months.

Browns Mill Road Elementary School in the Lithonia area cost \$4.5 million to build. It will provide space for 655 students in its 39 classrooms and media center. It will also be the site of one of

Salem Road School is now complete, and weather which construction should open in January or February.

The 50 classroom Road Junior accomodate 1 new school, the new junior curriculum, industrial a homemaking as well as biology labs that will typing as well business. The computer lab media center In addition



This is the arch School will look house 1,100 stu

DeKalb News Service 6/12/91

Browns Mill

(Continued From Page 1A)

net program, at 884. Students who have just completed a year in the magnet program have the option to return, but also have the choice of returning to their home schools. Some home school students are also included in the magnet school population.

Magnet school classes usually have a 20/one student teacher ratio while other classes are 26/one.

School officials anticipate that one to three portable classrooms may be needed.

THE USE of Salem Road Junior High, described as less than a mile down the road from Browns Mill, was suggested by Mrs. Glass to relieve overcrowding.

School officials however, don't see this as an option for the coming year.

During the past school year, 140 to 150 sixth graders from overcrowded Chapel Hill were sent to Murphey Candler which had space. During 1991-92, they will be at Salem Road.

If they were sent back to Chapel Hill, it simply would face the same overcrowding again, according to Dr. Oran.

New School May Need 'Portables'

By HELEN ORDNER

Parents at Browns Mill Elementary School have just learned that the school, now in its first year, may overflow into portable classrooms by September.

PTA co-president Gwendolyn Glass questioned Board of Education members about the possible overcrowding of the new school at the June work session.

Browns Mill School is one of a group planned to solve overcrowding in south DeKalb but, according to Superintendent Robert Freeman, six new schools are necessary to overcome the problem. Only two are now underway.

The decision about portables will probably be based upon the number of students who attend the magnet program for high achievers which is held there, according to Dr. Doyle Oran, school system coordinator for planning. The program was provided last year for fourth and fifth graders and will be extended through grade six in 1991-92.

Total enrollment in the schools on May 24 was 837 with the school's 1991-92 capacity, including space designated for the mag-

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(See BROWNS MILL, Page 5B)

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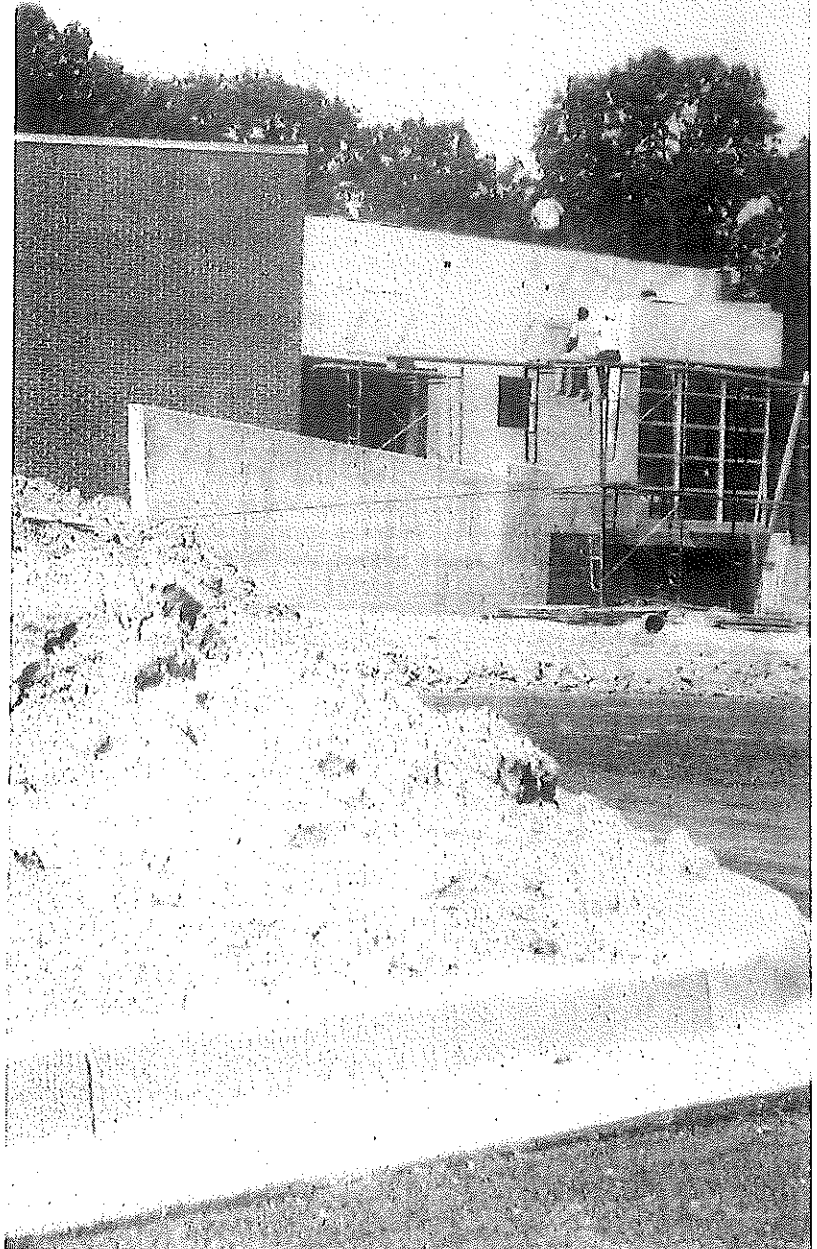


DeKalb News Journal
DeKalb School Board Digs In 10/25/89

Some DeKalb Board of Education members share the recent groundbreaking ceremony for Brown's Mill School, a 70,000 square foot facility to be located at 4863 Brown's Mill Road in Lithonia. Including furniture and equipment, the cost of the new facility totals \$7 million. R.L. Brown and Associates were architects for the structure to be constructed by Z. Pinkerton and Laws Company.

The projected completion of this facility in the autumn of 1990 allow occupancy by students from kindergarten through sixth grade level. Ms. Janet Warren has been appointed to serve as principal. Shown are (l to r) DeKalb Board of Education members Elizabeth Andrews and Donna Wagner, Superintendent Robert R. Freeman and DeKalb board member Phil McGregor.

*Beth News
Sun
2/25/90*



Browns Mill School Opens This Fall ⁵⁸

The new Browns Mill Elementary School at 4863 Browns Mill Road in Lithonia is expected to be completed this fall, probably by October 1. Jan Warren will be the principal of Browns Mill School, a facility designed for students in grades kindergarten through sixth year. Pinkerton and Laws were the architects and R.L. Brown and Associates are the builders of this school with an all inclusive price tag of \$7 million.

New Browns Mill School Changing Dividing Lines

"A boundary line change in three (DeKalb) schools" has been made for the 1990-91 year, according to school board attorney Gary Sams.

This is created by the opening of a new school, Browns Mills, Mr. Sams wrote in a letter to Judge William O'Kelley.

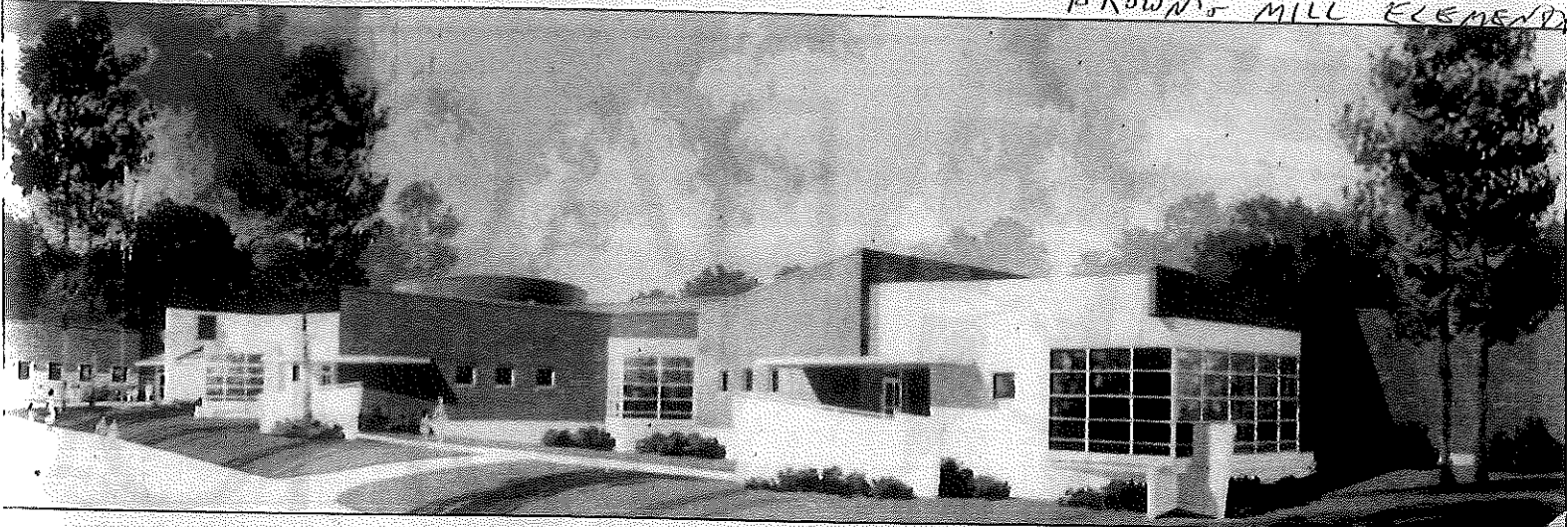
The school was planned to relieve overcrowding at Chapel Hill, Fairington, Rainbow and, to a lesser extent, Murphey Candler, he said.

Figures for Browns Mill did not reflect the impact of the magnet school program slated for that site. Indigenous population was estimated at 665 students, with the school slated to have a net capacity of 884.

What Mr. Sams termed "a change in an attendance area," not a boundary line change, will come with the opening of Salem Junior High. He said this will relieve overcrowding at Lithonia High, without materially changing the racial make-up — approximately 67 percent black students.

Browns Mill School
DeKalb
Aug 8, 1990

Browns Mill Elementary



Browns Mill Elementary School, will open its doors August 22 for the first day of school. The school was completed ten and a half months after construction was started. Superintendent of Facilities and Construction, said the school will be a red letter day. "This building is way beyond what I've proud of that," he said. This new school at

4863 Browns Mill Road in Lithonia was built at a cost of \$4.5 million. It has 39 rooms and a media center. There are six rooms for the kindergarten program. Other features are areas constructed specifically for Write-To-Learn, Read, art and music, as well as a science laboratory. An enrollment of 665 pupils is expected for the program in kindergarten through seventh year. Browns Mill will also house a magnet program patterned after the

Kittredge Magnet Program for High Achievers, serving fourth through seventh year students. The magnet will combine the regular academic program with unique emphasis on global education, foreign language and computer technology. The focus will be on creative problem solving and critical thinking. Jan Warren will be the Principal of Browns Mill. She was previously instructional lead teacher at Tilson Elementary School.