

# Faculty support for year-round school proposal decreases

By REAGON CLAMON  
Reporter of THE BATTALION

A new year-round school program being considered by Bryan Independent School district may die an early death if the faculty has anything to say about it, said some Bryan elementary school teachers.

The program, which will have participating students going to school for five terms—each about six weeks long—broken up by two to three week vacations, is to be presented to teachers by a school district committee on Nov. 1. If there is enough faculty support, the committee will then present the program to parents.

Patty Caperton and Karen Alderete, both first grade teachers at Milam elementary school, don't believe it will make it that far.

"If it's up to the teachers, it will not go through," Alderete said, "I think everybody has about the same opinion about it."

Both teachers believe that Bryan faculty will have too many reservations to totally agree to the program.

"It might lead to academic achievement, but I have too many concerns," Alderete said. "I go to graduate school, and I wouldn't be able to do that."

Alderete said most teachers need the three month break that the traditional school calendar allows.

"Teaching is very demanding," she said. "A lot of teachers enjoy that large block of time."

Caperton said, with an all year colander, parents would have trouble finding day care for their children during the two-week vacations. Most day care facilities aren't prepared for a large

amount of children during the fall and spring.

"Finding year-round day care will be a problem," Caperton said. "I think the school will probably have to take care of it."

Caperton said, even with their concerns, teachers would still agree to the program if research proved the program caused significant gains in academic achievement.

The switch to year-round school would be a sacrifice, Suzanne Phelps, director of community and government relations for BISD said, but one worth it.

"This will be a lifestyle change for parents and teachers," Phelps said. "Breaking up their schedule won't be easy."

Phelps said the new calendar would allow students to spend their summers more productively. "Most parents work on a 12

month job and can't decide to stay with their kids for the summer," Phelps said. "The summer is usually not a positive experience for these children."

Phelps said if the presentation was successful with the faculty and the parents, a pilot program would be started in one of the Bryan schools.

The students going to the pilot school whose parents didn't agree to the new program, would have to be bussed to another school.

The committee recommended that all the alternative calendar

students and teachers be put in their own building because it would be more cost effective and less confusing. Phelps said the program being tested in its own building would prevent any new costs, except for the extra utilities of keeping the building operating year-round.

An all-year school calendar would cause problems for the special education program, said Loretta Krueger, a preschool special education teacher at Milam elementary.

The Milam special education

program sends therapists to schools all over BISD and would be responsible for sending the

pilots to the pilot school program. "There would be scheduling problems sending therapists to different schools all year," Krueger said. "We have a hard time finding enough therapists for it."

Krueger had one suggestion for the school board committee.

"If they do it, then everybody needs to do it," she said. "The would solve the scheduling problem."

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KAPPA DELTA CHI: Closed Rush in the Kyle Field Press Box at 7 p.m. We are a hispanic-based service organization for women. For more information call Tricia Garcia at 847-2499.

COMMUNITY OF SINGLE ADULTS: Social Hour at Garfield's at 6 p.m. THEN... Dancing at the Hall of Fame at 9 p.m. For more information call Royce at 776-1693 or Peggy at 846-9536.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: We will offer two seminars, "Fresh Start Seminar" and "Kids in the Middle Seminar" to help children, ages 7-18, and adults cope with the experience of separation and divorce. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Westminster in Bryan. For more information call 776-1165.

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(the story so far...)

by thomas deerny

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