

By Allan Drury
Register Staff

EAST HAVEN — Only seven educators responded to ads seeking candidates for the superintendent of schools job, a number that some school board members called disappointing.

"It's too bad," Joann Esposito said. "It really is a sin."

Esposito attributed the low number to a limited advertising campaign, the fact that ads did not run until this month and the system's reputation for going through superintendents quickly.

The applicants include two local candidates. They are former Assistant Superintendent and East Haven High School Principal Norman T. DeMartino, currently the principal at St. Vincent de Paul School; and John Tirozzi, the system's director of grants and student services.

At a board meeting Tuesday night, James Sintay, chairman of the Superintendent Search Committee, said there were six applicants. A secretary said a seventh application had arrived, prompting some lighthearted sarcasm from board member Marilyn Vitale.

"That makes me feel better," said Vitale, who, like Esposito, has been critical of the way the board has conducted the search "We got seven."

The board advertised the job in several newspapers and on the Internet.

A federal judge's ruling in a hiring discrimination lawsuit filed against the town requires that all jobs be advertised in places where African-Americans are likely to see them.

Board Chairman John Finkle said consultants the board interviewed predicted there might be only a small number of candidates.

The consultants said the East Haven superintendent's job has come to be seen as "a stepping stone" that educators use to move to jobs in other districts. That concerns him, Finkle said.

"I don't want to be known for that," he said. "We need some stability here."

MADISON — The growing number of school-age children could soon put kindergartners in modular classrooms placed at Town Campus, officials said.

Superintendent of Schools Kaye Griffin said the modular classrooms are under consideration as a way to relieve some of the pressure from a growing pupil population.

The upward trend "will continue for awhile," Griffin said. "The current population is already more than the schools can handle."

Figures released by the district show that while about 3,400 pupils will attend town schools in 1999-2000, an estimated 3,900 will be enrolled by 2003-04.

The last time a new school — the Robert H. Brown Middle School — was built in Madison was in 1970.

Robert Hale, acting chairman of the Board of Education and chairman of the board's long-range planning committee, said the modular classrooms would allow the first- through third-grades to occupy freed-up space at

Hale said. "Everyone agrees that there is a population problem."

Hale also said that Daniel Hand High School could eventually be turned into a middle school, and that a new high school may be needed.

The modular classrooms would affect students attending kindergarten in 2000-01 to the end of the 2002-03 school year.

Griffin said the Board of Education approved the hiring of an architect, who would be charged with working with the long-range planning and building committees to help develop plans for the modular classrooms.

"If we are going to be ready for the 2000 school year, we need to start right now," Griffin said.

Hale said the Board of Finance already has rejected one plan for new schools, due to a lack of town funds. The cost of the modular classrooms has not been determined.

The long-range planning committee will meet in early July to further discuss enrollment and buildings issues.

Judge upholds his decision on Hamden council budget

By Ann DeMatteo
Register Staff

NEW HAVEN — A Superior Court judge on Wednesday upheld his decision that the Hamden Legislative Council's budget is the town's legal budget for the fiscal year that starts July 1.

The judge, however, threw out additional arguments that the council's lawyer believed were necessary to support the council's case on appeal.

Town Attorney Joshua Winnick was buoyed by Judge Anthony V. DeMayo's ruling that disregarded the council's efforts to back up the initial ruling.

After the hearing, Winnick said that he argued that the council didn't comply with charter deadlines, and that the court agreed with him that charter deadlines are mandatory.

The council's lawyer, Anthony Bonadies, wanted DeMayo to apply a "Sunday exception" to support the case in the event that the case is appealed.

Bonadies said the council

wanted the alternative remedy in the event that a higher court ruled the council didn't act in a timely manner.

The remedy would be that the council could be legally excused from voting on a Sunday, which was May 16. The judge disregarded the matter because the council apparently had never considered voting on May 16, Bonadies said.

"The judge didn't want to read into the charter. The second count was a backup intended to preserve issues on appeal," Bonadies said.

"The important thing is that the judge sustained that the council voted in a timely manner," he said.

As of Wednesday, the mayor had not decided to appeal DeMayo's initial ruling from Monday, which said that the council voted on its budget by the town charter-imposed deadline of May 17.

DeNicola believes the council should have voted by May 16. She ordered her \$114.7 million budget in effect over the council-approved budget, which is \$113.4 million.

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