

Elementary school pool-replacement bids too costly

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Bids to replace the Cape May City Elementary School's 50-year-old swimming pool have come in much higher than anticipated. At an April 16 Board of Education meeting, Business Administrator John Thomas said he would meet with Mayor Edward Mahaney and City Manager Bruce MacLeod this

week to discuss the bids page by page. He theorized the bids may be high because items the school placed in its specifications "may have been top of the line." Thomas said travel time to Cape May could have been included in the costs. Finance Committee Chairman Thomas Rippman said he was confident the project could be rebid to bring costs in line. Thomas said rebidding the pool project could delay it by

three months. Chairman Edward Connolly said the pool would not be completed by the September opening of school. In August 2014, City Council introduced an ordinance to finance the replacement of the pool. The city expected to appropriate \$1 million, with \$950,000 issued in bonds and notes. The pool has been closed since August 2013 due to leaks. The city will be the lender of

the funding to replace the pool at zero interest, with the pool paid off in 10 years. The project would retain the concrete shell of the old pool and install a water-circulation system around the pool rather than under it. The project would update locker rooms and replace decking. In other business, Craig Pilczuk, buildings and grounds supervisor, reported buzzer lock systems have been in-

stalled on the entrance to the front hallway, school office and entrance to school hallways. Two binders of documents from Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) regarding mediation of contamination on the school's playing fields and adjacent city-owned property were provided to Board Solicitor Robert Fineberg. He said the binders contained JCP&L's final plans, which he described as voluminous. Fineberg said

the city approved the plans. The contamination was produced by a coal-gasification plant that operated on the property from the late 1800s until the 1940s. Thomas reported the school endorsed a \$350,000 grant received by the city for safe routes to school. He said the majority of the grant was for building or developing a safe bike and walking path from the school to the Coast Guard base.

Elementary school marks 50 years

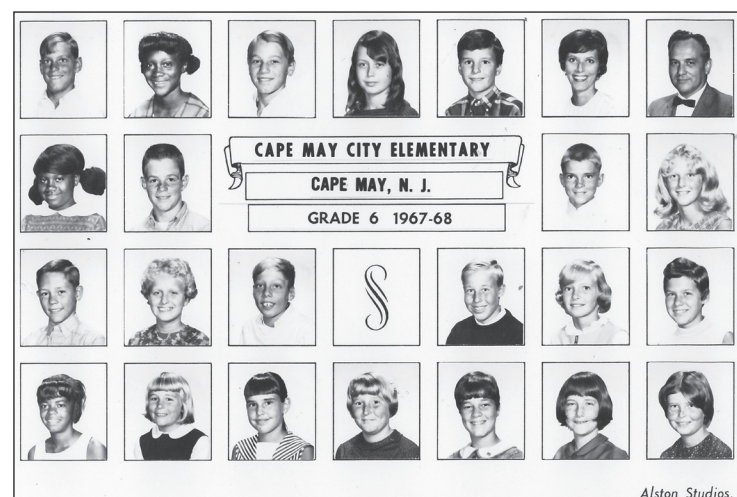
Continued from Page A1

connect with the school. It asks what years students attended, if they came from Coast Guard families, their favorite memory of the school and contact information.

A memory book of the event will be created. Those planning to attend the anniversary event may R.S.V.P. to lharner@cmboe.org. Information is also available on Cape May City Elementary School's Facebook page. The school was dedicated in a ceremony Aug. 26, 1965.

The invocation was delivered by the Rev. Clarence Harris of Allen A.M.E. Church and a flag salute led by the administrative principal of the school, Ronald Giberson. The keynote speaker was Anne Hoppock, director of elementary education for the New Jersey Department of Education.

Honored guests 50 years ago included Sen. Charles W. Sandman Jr.; Cape May Mayor Frank Gauvry; county Superintendent of Schools Malcolm MacEwan; Cecilia Love, president of the Cape May City Education Association; J. Morgan Van Hise, state department director of civil defense and control; F.H. Radey Jr., architect; and Sen. John Hunt of Gloucester County.



Cape May City Elementary School is inviting all past students to its 50th anniversary celebration June 5.

Richard M. Teitelman, chairman of the New School Building Committee of the Board of Education, placed articles in an envelope to be attached to the date stone. The articles included a photo of the old school at 622 Lafayette St., a photo of the board of education at the groundbreaking ceremony Aug. 4, 1964, the Aug. 26, 1965 edition of the Cape May Star and Wave, a list of faculty, students and staff of the school, new coins and a copy of the dedication program.

The Coast Guard Recruit Training Center Band played at the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the ceremony as a new flag was raised by Belford S. LeMunyon, past commander of American Legion Post 193, which donated flags for the school's 14 classrooms, auditorium and for outdoor display. From the Aug. 26, 1965, edition of the Star and Wave: "Among the many features of the new school, which will open Sept. 8 with an enrollment of 320 students from kindergarten through sixth grade, are the year-round Olympic-size swimming pool, closed-circuit TV, multipurpose room with seating capacity of 750 (auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria) audio-visual aids instructional material center, including library; air conditioned offices. Radey and Radey, architects of Cherry Hill, designed the building with Victorian lines and details to aid in the revival and flavor displayed in many of the existing homes and hotels, in cooperation with the Victo-

rian restoration of Cape May. The main entrance lobby features a colorful 9X16 foot floor-to-ceiling ceramic tile mural depicting historical scenes in the Cape May vicinity. Artists from the American Olean Tile Company of Lansdale worked directly from drawings made by students of the school."

The Sept. 2, 1965, edition of the Star and Wave noted the cost of the new school totaled \$567,685. "The new school is regarded as one of the best of its type in the entire nation," stated the story. "All classrooms have sinks with warm and cold running water, 'jacks' to receive and originate closed circuit television, tinted glass in the lower portion of the windows, glazed block bases, special epoxy paint under blackboards to resist marks, vinyl asbestos floors, acoustical tile ceilings, terrazzo and tile floors and shoulder high ceramic tile in the halls," the story stated. Also noted was an intercom system permitting each classroom to be contacted and a library with 2,300 books, which would expand to 6,000 books. A tape, record and projection room permitted students to see and hear filmstrips, tapes, records and slides on an individual basis, stated the story. "The auditorium seats 100-150 and when the electrically operated doors are open, the seating capacity is extended to about 750," according to the story. "The swimming pool is slightly over 75 feet in length and 35 feet in width. Three large filters assure a crystal clear pool at all times and the water temperature can be adjusted at all times and all safety features have been incorporated."

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Cape May expected to cancel Philly Pops

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council was expected to vote last night on a resolution, too late for our deadline, terminating an agreement with the Philly Pops for a concert Sept. 5 at Convention Hall.

At an April 7 meeting, council approved a \$62,500 contract with the Philly Pops for the concert.

The Philly Pops also will also appear in Wildwood's Fox Park July Fourth in a concert that will be free to the public. Fireworks will follow the concert.

Former councilman Jerry Inderwies Jr. was critical of the contract, noting a concert last year was not a sellout.

The April 7 resolution was contingent upon a professional services agreement being executed by the mayor and city clerk within 30 days of the passage of the resolution.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the Philly Pops reduced the price of the concert and its CEO made a considerable contribution. He said if the concert did not break even, it would be balanced against other shows being held in Convention Hall this summer along with other sources of income such as sponsorships.

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