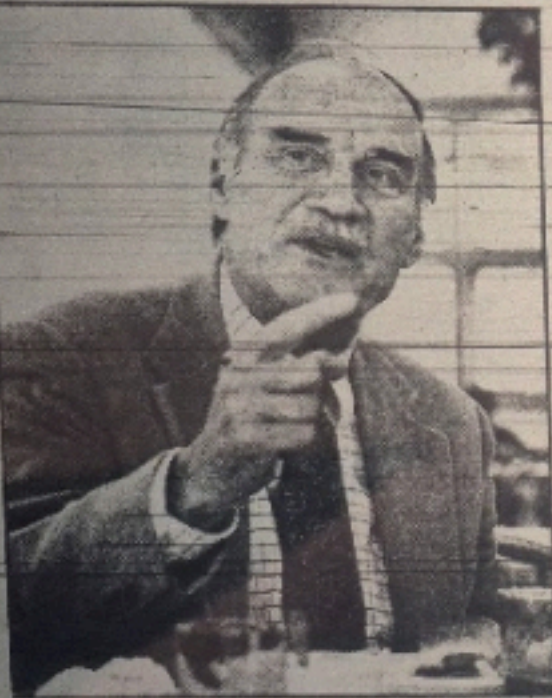




Staff photo by Doug Jones

Joseph Gauld began his pioneering ways as co-founder of Bath's Hyde School in 1966.

Gardiner answers educator's call

● Joseph Gauld is calling for revolutionary reforms in the nation's public schools. Gardiner will provide the first test.

By **MICHAEL NORTON**
Staff Writer

The man with the glistening eyes and the balding head stood in the back of the Gardiner High School library and watched chapter one of his dream unfold.

More than 100 people were jammed in among the bookshelves, facing their school board. The man, Joseph Gauld, had led them there. He had sold these parents an unshakable belief that the character-building ideals of his private school, Hyde School in Bath, could work in their public high school.

If he succeeds in Gardiner, Gauld believes, then this could be the beginning of a new wave of reform through America's schools.

Dana Ambrose, who has two sons in Gardiner schools, had never spoken at a board meeting. On Thursday night, his voice staggering with emotion, he stood and read a poem about a child lost to neglect and despair. "All of us are here for our kids," he said.

The SAD 11 board Thursday gave the parents and Gauld what they wanted. This September, Gardiner will have a new school within its high school modeled on Hyde.

This was no minor bureaucratic shuffle. Gauld, a charismatic and sometimes controversial character in Maine education, now has a foothold in public school reform. And he is not the type to let go.

The Gauld scenario: Gardiner is first. It will be a rousing success. Washington, D.C., Spring-

field, Mass., Indianapolis and Winston-Salem, N.C., are interested in Hyde's ideas. They will follow.

The 65-year-old Gauld has been preaching school revolution for 30 years. Now, he believes, "the whole damn achievement system" and "the education mafia" are headed for the gallows.

"It is going to get hot," he said.

To know the Hyde ideal and how it might change life in Gardiner and elsewhere, you have to know Joseph Gauld. As one parent put it after Thursday's meeting, "Joe Gauld is the story."

Gauld's feelings about schools and students are passionate. He describes his career as a journey, marked by critical epiphanies.

The first awakening came shortly after graduating from Bowdoin College. Gauld got

Please see GAULD, Page 8B

GAULD

Continued from Page 1A

K. Edwards will visit the campus May 15, and Wells Superintendent Robert Kautz said he is interested in the Hyde offer.

School officials from Brunswick and Bath said they are not interested this year.

Kautz said he met Gauld last September, after a speech Gauld gave to Wells High School students. Kautz' staff has kept in contact with Gauld since then.

Kautz said he has been impressed with Gauld's philosophy. "The part that really struck me was, if the family is involved in a student's learning, the student will learn more," Kautz said.

Said Portland's Edwards: "I don't know anything about Hyde School, but I plan to learn more. He is promoting something and I'm always looking for ways to help young people learn."

The training center staff would select teachers, and ninth-grade students and parents based on personal interviews. Gauld said he wants only people who want to learn and commit to the program.

Those selected would attend classes of 30 people for at least a week of initial exposure to Hyde's methods and philosophy. Training would continue throughout the next three school years, and would include visits by Hyde teachers to the public school classrooms and monthly meetings between teachers, students and parents.

Another component of the training center, the wilderness outpost program, would send students and parents on an outdoor adventure to foster a sense of togetherness.

The Hyde philosophy is that every child is gifted with a unique potential that defines his or her destiny. By emphasizing character development in the classroom, in sports, and in performing arts, Hyde teachers try to tap that potential.

Hyde educators believe academic achievement will follow after a child has developed character.

"Everywhere, (school) budgets are suffering. People are crying for reform. We're prepared to offer money for true reform," Gauld said. "We're saying, 'You've got a choice. Stay the way you are or try our method.' A lot of people are talking about reform, but there is a time for talk to end."

In a related expansion move, Gauld said Hyde School plans to open the Hyde Preparatory School of Springfield (Mass.) in September 1992. It is also exploring the possibility of starting a satellite school in Washington, D.C.

Gauld said 650 families in the Springfield public school system have agreed to enroll in the training center.

Springfield teachers, students, and parents will be brought to Maine for training before the school there opens in September 1992.

HYDE SCHOOL. BATH.

In September the town of Gardiner will set up a new school within its high school modeled on the educational philosophy of Joseph Gauld and the program at Hyde School in Bath. Gauld hopes that other schools throughout the country will also try the experiment.

(Photo)

Maine Sunday Telegram

April 19, 1992. p. 1B, 2B