

Founder gets ready to return to Hyde

By PAUL DOWNING
Bath-Brunswick Bureau

BATH — Hyde School founder Joseph W. Gaud was back at the school Wednesday to evaluate its situation and "get acquainted" in preparation for a meeting of the board of directors on Dec. 14.

Directors named Gaud to a new position of chief executive officer Friday. The directors are seeking to trim operating deficits and get the private secondary school back on a self-supporting basis.

They are expected next week to formalize arrangements made with Gaud for his return and take further steps to stabilize the finances.

Among proposals is the naming of a small executive committee, said Armin U. Kuder, acting board chairman. He explained that the committee would include some board members and others with expert financial knowledge, which is lacking on the board itself.

Cash-flow problems have plagued the school for the past two years, Kuder reported, leading to a \$300,000 deficit last year. Gaud, who founded the school in 1966, resigned as headmaster in 1975



Gaud

Gaud brings with him commitments for contributions totaling \$500,000 from alumni and others,

and as director of the school's national commitment efforts in 1980. Since then he has been an educational consultant.

Gaud brings with him commitments for contributions totaling \$500,000 from alumni and others to help pull the school out of its financial hole.

"We are pleased," said Kuder, "to have this problem behind us." He added that Hyde School's "reach has exceeded the length of its sleeve."

A major reason for the financial problem has been a drop in enrollments from a peak of 200 to about 170 last year and 140 this year. Building them up again is expected to be one of the tasks which Gaud will undertake.

The situation has been turning around this year under the administration of Timothy P. Wilson, Kuder said. Wilson joined the staff as associate headmaster early this year and became acting headmaster with the resignation of William J. McLean III in June.

"We are having a very good year under Tim Wilson," said Kuder. "The parents are 100 percent behind what's been happening." He added that the board "strongly endorses" Wilson's policies and has made no objection to Wilson's efforts to recruit Maine Indian students and state foster-care children.

"We certainly want Maine children at Hyde," Kuder said, in its efforts to maintain a diversity in the school enrollment.

Gaud said he will be ready to talk about his ideas and plans for the school after the new arrangements have been worked out at next week's board meeting.

GAULD, JOSEPH W.

Joseph W. Gauld, who founded the Hyde School, in Bath, will be returning to the school as chief executive officer...to bail it out financially.
(Photo)

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