Hyde School seeking sister campus

By DENNIS HOEY
Staff Writer

BATH — Hyde School Headmaster Malcolm Gauld said Thursday the private boarding school on High Street, which charges an annual tuition fee of $14,700, would like to open a sister campus somewhere in the Northeast.

Gauld also said Hyde School received a check Thursday for $500,000 from a private donor as "seed money" to start a second campus.

The headmaster said he was not at liberty to disclose the name of the donor. However, he did say that the money came from a "major national foundation."

Gauld said Hyde School does not intend to build a new campus, but will use the funds instead to help purchase and renovate an existing boarding school.

He said Hyde officials have examined six or seven private boarding school facilities in the Northeast. All the sites are within a five hour radius of New York City. The boarding schools were closed because of financial problems.

Gauld said nearly all the schools up for sale have been visited by foreign interests. He said potential buyers are mostly Japanese whose families have moved to the United States but who don't want their children to be educated in American public schools.

"We're bucking the trend" by thinking about expansion, Gauld said. "These have been tough times for most boarding schools."

Gauld said enrollment at Hyde has steadily increased over the last five years. Today's enrollment stands at 160 pupils in grades eight through 12, compared to 100 students five years ago. The students come from 25 different states and four foreign countries.

Gauld said school officials, as a matter of policy, have decided against allowing enrollment to exceed 195 students. That decision came after student numbers "ballooned" to 235 in the late 1970s.

"In the 1970s we developed a reputation as a school for problem kids," Gauld said. "At the time, we received a lot of media attention. I think we had lost sight of ourselves as a school. But, we're a different school now than we were 10 years ago."

So while there is concern among school officials over extending Hyde's resources, there is also recognition of the growing demand for the unique style of education Hyde School can offer.

That is the main reason why the school's four-person Board of Governors has begun to think seriously about operating a second Hyde School campus, he said. The second school would adhere to the same teaching philosophy as the Bath campus.

Gauld said he expects the school's stock to rise further when the CBS Television show "Sixty Minutes" finally airs a special on the school which it taped last summer. He expects the segment will air in November.

Gauld said he believes many parents have become dissatisfied with the traditional educational system in this country. He said many children are alienated by the educational system and he pointed to what he called "an astounding dropout rate" as proof.

HYDE SCHOOL. BATH.

The private boarding school, Hyde School, in Bath is seeking to open a sister campus somewhere in the Northeast.

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