

Walled Lake falls short on student count estimate

Walled Lake School District's Fourth Friday count shows that enrollment figures fell significantly short of the number of students which had been expected in the preparation of the 1978-79 school budget.

Asst. Supt. for Business Harry Carlson had projected an enrollment of some 11,300 students during budget preparation.

But as preliminary enrollment counts were conducted throughout the district, it became more and more apparent that the enrollment would not meet the projected figures.

When the final figures were tabulated Sept. 29, they revealed a total of 11,153 students for both the regular K-12 and adult education programs—147 students short of the projected number.

The "fourth Friday" count is important because it is used to determine just how much money the local district will receive in state school aid revenues.

Since the Walled Lake Schools receive a total of \$1,564 per student in state aid and local property taxes, the loss of 147 students figures out to a loss of approximately \$230,000.

The Walled Lake school board has adopted a 1978-79 budget in which projected expenditures of \$19.7 million

exceed projected revenues of some \$19.32 million by approximately \$377,000.

THE PROJECTED loss of additional \$230,000 in state aid as a result of the declining enrollment could swell the deficit in the 1978-79 budget to approximately \$607,000.

The 1978-79 budget is being balanced with approximately \$891,000 left over in fund equity from the 1977-78 school year. A \$377,000 deficit in 1978-79 would reduce the fund equity to \$614,000 while a \$607,000 deficit would reduce the fund equity to \$384,000 at the end of the 1978-79 fiscal year.

Supt. Don Sheldon reported that he would prefer to chop some \$230,000 from the 1978-79 budget as opposed to cutting any further into the fund equity.

"We've been spending a lot of hours with the budget since it became apparent that we weren't going to make our projected enrollment figures," Sheldon said.

"I expect we'll be spending a lot more time going over the budget before we are done."

Sheldon stated that he anticipated taking a list of projected cuts to the school board for approval.

"I hope that we're able to make up

for that loss of \$230,000 in revenues by tightening up our belts instead of dipping any further into the fund Sheldon added.

Sheldon was uncertain just what cuts he would recommend to cover the loss of \$230,000 in revenues, but that he

hoped he would be able to trim the budget without having to cut programs or personnel.

THE FOURTH FRIDAY count of 11,153 students marks the third year in which enrollment has declined in the Walled Lake district.

Enrollment reached an all-time high in 1976-77 with 11,600 students. Enrollment declined 165 students to 11,435 in 1977-78 and has further declined an additional 282 students to 11,153 in the current year.

School officials are convinced that the trend toward declining enrollments will be turned around in the next few years. A report by the school facilities study committee has projected that enrollment in the Walled Lake district will reach 11,834 by the 1982-83 school year.

Harrison student dies in accident

The death of a 16-year-old Harrison High School student is under investigation by Farmington Hills Police.

Police questioned and released the 17-year-old driver of the car which hit Richard Frederick Brown and his friend, David Allan Bailey, 18, of Farmington Hills, as they crossed the intersection of Nine Mile and Middlebelt at 1:27 a.m. Saturday.

Brown and Bailey were taken to Rotford Hospital in Farmington Hills, where Brown was pronounced dead on arrival due to shock and hemorrhaging from multiple fractures.

Bailey was treated for injuries and released.

Services for Brown were held Tuesday in Heenev Smquist Funeral Home by Carl Schultz of Salem United Church of Christ, Farmington. Burial was in Glen Eden, Livonia.

Surviving are his mother, Jane; father Jack Frederick; and brother Craig.

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