

Walled Lake asks for 3 mill boast

Voters in the Walled Lake School District will face another request for an increase in operating millage in a special election today.

School officials maintain that the three mills for three years is necessary in order to restore personnel, programs and supplies to 1978-79 levels.

One mill equals one dollar per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation. Polls close at 8 p.m. today (Monday).

The Walled Lake District includes the western portion of West Bloomfield and the northwest section of Farmington Hills.

Today's election marks the third time this year that voters in the district have been asked to approve an increase in the operating millage.

Millage elections in April and June involved a request for four mills for one year. Both were defeated.

The need for extra millage was prompted by a projected 1979-80 budget in which expenditures exceeded revenues by a significant amount, officials said.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Harry Carlson projected in March that the district needed \$1.7 million in additional revenues in order to maintain its personnel, programs and supplies at last year's levels.

FOLLOWING THE April 30 millage defeat, the Walled Lake school board adopted a proposed program of cutbacks in personnel, programs and supplies totaling \$1.7 million in order to balance the budget for the 1979-80 school year.

The cutbacks were implemented after the June millage defeat.

The list of cutbacks included closing a high school swimming pool, a major curtailment of staffing in the reading support program and significant reductions in such areas as audio-visual aids, textbooks and supplies, library books, capital outlay and testing programs.

The decision to make one more attempt this year for additional millage was reached last summer after Superintendent Don Sheldon had recommended that no more millage elections be scheduled until next spring.

In August, the school board voted to levy 1.41 mills available through the fixed county tax allocation.

The 1.41 mills, which already have

been added to the 1979-80 tax levy, will provide an estimated \$500,000.

Sheldon recommended that the 1.41 mills be levied this year, but recommended against seeking additional millage before next spring.

SCHOOL BOARD members rejected his recommendation by a 4-3 margin, stating that the three additional mills are needed to reinstate the programs that were cut during the summer.

The three mills will generate \$1.395 million in additional revenues. Combined with the \$500,000 generated by the 1.41 mills, the district would have an additional \$2,025 million in operating revenues.

Sheldon cautioned that the additional revenues may not be sufficient to enable the district to restore everything that was cut following the June millage defeat because of inflationary costs.

ONE EXAMPLE of inflationary costs, Sheldon said, is the new contract with the Walled Lake Education Association which cost the district an additional \$1 million in wages and fringe benefits.

Last month, the board approved a list of 22 items which will be restored if the three-mill proposal is approved today. That list includes restoring:

- Reading support aides and supplies at the elementary level.
- Teaching supplies and textbooks.
- Library books and media personnel.
- Field trips.
- The fifth-grade program to prevent drowning.
- Re-employment of all staff on layoff.
- Staff in-service workshops for developing curriculum revisions.
- Hearing and vision screening program.
- Repair and replacement of worn-out equipment.
- Driver education.
- Re-open high school swimming pool.
- All athletic and extracurricular activities including swimming teams.
- Eight custodial, maintenance and mechanic positions.
- Improvements in roof repairs, athletic fields and parking lots.

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12 oz. Tumblers (set of 4)	5.00	3.00	1.00	FREE	6.25
12 oz. Giant Mugs (set of 4)	7.50	6.50	3.50	FREE	8.50
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