

# \$1.3 million cuts follow school millage defeat

Budget cuts totaling \$1.3 million have been proposed by the Walled Lake School District because of voter rejection of a four-mill increase April 30.

Combined with revisions in projected revenues of \$138,000, the proposed cuts add up to \$1.7 million — the amount of revenues that would have been generated through voter approval of the four-mill proposal.

The school board will again present the millage request to voters in the school election June 11.

Superintendent Don Sheldon told the school board and approximately 100 people who attended a special board meeting last week that the list of proposed cuts was not designed to produce an "impact" among voters.

"The fact is that we are required by law to adopt a balanced budget," Sheldon said.

"When the millage proposal was defeated by the voters, it was our job to reduce the budget by \$1.7 million in order to make expenditures coincide with revenues."

Sheldon added that the philosophy in developing the proposed list of cutbacks was to maintain as many programs as possible at reduced levels. As a result, few programs have been totally eliminated, but virtually all programs have been affected in the district, which includes the western portion of West Bloomfield and a northwestern section of Farmington Hills.

"I regret the fact that the list of cuts may not be construed as too significant by people who don't take the time to look at the overall effect of what has been proposed," Sheldon said.

"BUT THE total effect of these proposed cutbacks will have a severe impact on the overall quality of education."

"Virtually every staff member and every program will be affected in one way or another. I'm afraid that there will be very serious implications for programs in the upcoming year and the future if these cutbacks are eliminated," he added.

The board took the first step toward reducing expenditures last week when it issued termination notices to 43 teachers. Additional cutbacks proposed by the administration last week include:

- Closing the swimming pool. All swimming programs would be eliminated, including interscholastic swimming teams and the drop-proofing program in the elementary schools. Total savings was pegged at \$30,000.

- Eliminating the salary of the vision and health consultant. The proposed cut would eliminate the vision screening program in elementary schools. Total savings — \$25,000.

- Curtailment of library expenditures. Sheldon reported that proposed cutbacks of approximately \$60,000 for library books and supplies would leave just \$1,000 for the purchase of new books in both elementary and secondary schools.

- That's enough for us to purchase new library cards and not much else," Sheldon added. He also suggested that the proposed cuts in funding for the library would not be well received by the North Central Association, which accredits the district's secondary schools.

- Reducing driver training programs. The proposal calls for the district to offer just one session of driver training.

- Eliminating all field trips.
- Eliminating plans to implement a program for gifted and talented students. Estimated savings — \$40,000.

- Reducing the budget for elementary instruction by \$175,000. The proposed reductions would include elimination of eight of the 14 teachers aides in the reading support program. Also eliminated would be approximately \$64,000 in teaching supplies and \$5,000 for textbooks. Additionally, four itinerant teaching positions would be eliminated.

- Imposing a 30 percent reduction in extracurricular activities at the high school level. No determination has been made as to which cuts will be made.

- Imposing a 2.5 percent pay cut on administrative personnel. The proposed cut would be taken from 1979-80 salary levels, which have not yet been negotiated. Total savings were estimated at \$39,000, which would enable the district to avoid having to eliminate administrative positions.

- Eliminating one bus mechanic. The district has one mechanic for each 20 buses and the Michigan State Police recommended one mechanic for each 10 buses.

- Reducing the budget for plant operation and maintenance by \$282,000. The reduction would involve the elimination of seven custodial positions.

- Reducing capital outlay expenditures by \$125,000. Requests for more than \$250,000 in replacement of classroom equipment has been sent to the business office this year.

- Board members asked for time to review the proposed list of cuts. They indicated they will examine the proposals at the regular board meeting at 8 p.m. today.

## Baseball player, 16, dies suddenly

Paul Bylski was a left-handed pitcher for the South Farmington Baseball Association and an electronics enthusiast.

The 16-year-old enjoyed tinkering with stereo equipment and listening to the music of Bob Seger, the Blues Brothers and Foreigner.

But all that came to a tragic end when, after a short illness, Bylski, a junior at Harrison High School, died on April 16 in Harper Hospital, Detroit.

His mother and sister remember his ability on the pitcher's mound.

"His coach told me that he could place Paul anywhere and he would do a good job," said Irene Bylski.

"He was great," said Janice Gourlay, 25, speaking of her brother's baseball ability.

"I used to take him to baseball games. I miss that now."

They were good friends as well as brother and sister, according to Janice.

"Paul and I had the best relationship," she said.

Together they would discuss some of Bylski's favorite classes, such as biology with teacher Tom Shalla.

GOLFING, AND CANOEING were favorite outdoor activities.

At home, Bylski spent his time studying electronics. He wired the basement of the family's home and installed speakers downstairs.



PAUL BYLSKI

ing electronics. He wired the basement of the family's home and installed speakers downstairs.

"He scored high in electronics on the aptitude tests," his mother said.

Survivors also include: father, Norbert; sisters, Donita, 23, and Norene, 9; nephew Karen Gourley, 2 months and friends, Michael Kourtakis, Kip Verner and Art Hamlin.

## Obituaries

WILLIAM E. ARMSTRONG

Mr. Armstrong, 16, of Farmington, died on May 9, in University Hospital, Ann Arbor.

Survivors include parents, Joseph and Shirley Armstrong; grandparents, Ruth and Lyle Baker and Joseph and Henrietta Armstrong; sister, Tammy; and brother, Joseph.

Services were conducted on May 12 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Pastor Edmund Luther of the Farmington Hills Christian Center and the Rev. Marion Hodgson, of the Assembly of God, officiated. Burial was in Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens.

HENRY V. BAKER

Mr. Baker, 81, of Farmington died on May 10, in Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit.



Survivors include sister, Mabel Walpole; nieces, Carol, Cynthia and Ethel Garvin; nephews, Marvin, Richard, Robert and Ronald Garvin.

Services were conducted on May 11 at Thayer Rick Funeral Home, Rev. J. Kenneth Hoffmaster officiated. Burial was in Dorset, Ohio.

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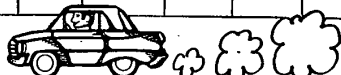
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