

# Money matters

## Raises won't wipe out rainy-day fund

By MARIE CHIESTNEY  
STAFF WRITER

Despite giving 3-percent raises this year to teachers and administrators, Clarenceville Public Schools still will have a healthy chunk of money left in the rainy-day fund, said Superintendent David Kamish.

The pay increases unanimously approved Thursday by the Clarenceville Board of Education for both groups mean the rainy-day fund will temporarily dip to \$194,000 but should climb back up to \$225,000 by June 1995, Kamish said.

"We have a good cushion," the superintendent said. "We're in very good shape financially." He pegged the cost of wage and benefit increases approved Thursday for Clarenceville's 100 teachers and 12 administrators at \$225,000.

For the teachers, the trustees approved a three-year contract containing 3-percent raises in

both 1994-1995 and 1995-1996.

For the administrators, the trustees approved two-year contracts which contain only a 3-percent wage increase in 1994-95. But most likely, the administrators will follow the teachers and get a 3-percent increase in 1995-1996, Kamish said.

The teachers' contract contains no raise for 1995-1997. Instead, both sides agreed to reopen the agreement that year to discuss salary issues only.

"That's so far down the road, lots of things can change," Kamish said. "We could lose students. The state guarantees us a specified amount of money for the first two years only. It's written in the state aid act."

"But we know little about that third year. There are no guarantees, and we don't know if the

auto industry still will be doing good. We didn't want to tie the hands of the district that far down the road, and the teachers understood that. We got no argument from them."

This year, Clarenceville will get \$6,577 per student from the state.

The trustees Thursday also set its final budget for 1994-95. The budget shows an income of \$12.2 million and expenditures of \$12.1 million.

Some \$9.1 million of the income will come from the state; some \$2.3 will come from the local property tax. This major shift in who pays the bills came about because of passage of Proposal A in March.

Clarenceville on Thursday also changed the benefits of nine of its

administrators because of benefit increases given to teachers.

For example, the term life insurance policy for the administrators will rise to \$75,000 because the policy for teachers has climbed to \$50,000, Kamish said.

Also, the administrators will now get an extra \$20 for every credit hour they hold beyond a master's degree. "This will be in line with the \$25 paid to teachers," Kamish said.

Administrators receiving a 3-percent pay increase are Ralph Skrocki, James Lancaster, Cheryl Leach, David Simowaki, Carl Wagner, Jesse Baker, Ellen Davis, Harold Makinen, Rose Govig, James Hyman, Cathy Freshwater and Mary Aytes.

The teachers' old contract expired Aug. 26. They had been working under a two-month extension, which expired Oct. 31.

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Photo Courtesy of  
Twentieth Century Fox's remake of  
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Have your photo taken with Santa in the chair from Twentieth Century Fox's remake of "Miracle on 34th Street."

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