

# \$700,000 for Walled Lake

## Federal and state funds beef up school budget

Walled Lake Schools receive approximately \$700,000 from the state and federal governments for special programs in the district.

The major source of funding comes from the federal government through Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act which provides Walled Lake Schools with \$188,500.

A second major source of funding is available through Title IV of the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) which adds \$155,000 to school coffers.

An overview of the federally-financed programs was presented at the February school board meeting by Dr. Sami Alam, the district's director for research and federal programs.

A budget carryover of \$46,850 is combined with the Title I money to

provide remedial help in reading and math.

Alam said 305 youngsters are in the program at Dublin, Commerce and Walled Lake elementary schools. In addition, 25 elementary students at St. Matthew Lutheran School and St. Patrick's Catholic School are taught. Some 59 teachers and 21 teacher aides are funded through the program.

Related to this program is another grant of \$12,600 through Title I-B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The program provides professional development activities for teachers and aides in Title I buildings, Dr. Alam reported.

Walled Lake Schools receive a grant of \$70,250 through Article Three of the State Aid Act. The program provides remedial reading and math services for 281 youngsters in grades kindergarten through six at Commerce, Dublin,

Gleagry, Oakley Park and the Walled Lake elementary schools. Ten instructional aides are utilized in the program.

Dr. Alam explained that qualification for this program is a score of less than 40 percent on the Michigan Educational Assessment Test.

Title IV-A of the Indian Education Program provides Walled Lake Schools with a grant of \$51,500 for a program to provide cultural enrichment and tutoring in arts and crafts, for American Indians.

Eligibility for the grant, which is offered through the United States Office of Education, is determined by the number of youngsters of Native American descent in the district. Dr. Alam said that approximately 250 youngsters have been identified in the district and that 50-75 of them are involved in the program.

The program employs a coordinator, a resource person, and a secretary and is housed at Union Lake Elementary.

The program also provides materials for staff in working with Indian and non-Indian students.

Walled Lake Schools also receive a grant of some \$11,200 through Title IV-B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The money is used to purchase instructional materials and equipment as well as guidance and counseling materials for the schools.

The Paperback Book Program through Second 29 of the Department of Education Budget Bill provides Walled Lake Schools with a grant of \$3,100 which must be matched with \$1,000 in local funds.

The funds are used to purchase paperback books which are incorporated into school reading rooms. Purpose of the program is to provide paperback

books to students so that reluctant readers will be encouraged to do more reading.

Trainable mentally impaired youngsters in the Twin Sun program in the Walled Lake Schools receive a grant of \$15,100 through Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act-Program for the Handicapped.

Another grant of \$52,700 comes from Federal Assistance for the Education of Handicapped Persons. The funds are used to provide a school-based and home-based program for preschool handicapped youngsters. The program is under the supervision of the Department of Special Services.

Walled Lake Schools receive four additional grants through the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) programs.

Title IV of the CETA program provides the district with a grant of \$155,800 for the services of 14 disadvantaged adults. Positions supported by this program include custodians, keypunch operators, hall monitors, library aides, and a CETA coordinator.

The district also receives a grant of \$97,000 from the Youth Conservation Project of the CETA Program.

Dr. Alam reported that Walled Lake Schools were one of five Oakland County Districts which were funded for a program entitled "Repair and Renew" which presently employs 13 unemployed youth to work and train with a qualified supervisor to perform needed repairs throughout the district.

The project provides youngsters with at least one of the following marketable skills: electrical, plumbing, carpentry, heating and refrigeration, or grounds maintenance.

The Work Experience Project of the CETA Program provides the district with a grant of \$17,700 for the employment of out-of-school disadvantaged youth in full-time positions. Four of these positions are filled with clerical, library, or instructional helpers and all people in the program receive the minimum wage.

Dr. Alam reported that one position as a library helper at Clifford Smart Junior High School is presently unfilled.

The Career Experience Project of the CETA Program provides the district with a grant of \$46,000 for the part-time employment of disadvantaged youth who are still in school.

## ...but district eyes financial loss with cutback in state aid, local tax

There is more bad news for the already financially-strapped Walled Lake School District.

Assistant Superintendent for Schools Harry Carlson told the school board last week that it appears as if the district will lose an additional \$70,000 in anticipated revenues during the 1978-79 year.

The district will lose approximately \$40,000 in local property tax revenue as a result of the settlement of the dispute over the assessment of the Ford Motor Co.'s Wixom Assembly Plant.

And an additional \$30,000 in revenue in vocational education funding through state aid also has been lost.

The latest revenue losses will do nothing to help the financial picture for the Walled Lake School District.

In August the school board adopted an official 1978-79 budget of approximately \$19.7 million in which projected expenditures exceeded projected revenues by some \$377,000. The \$377,000 deficit in the official budget was offset by dipping into the district's reserve funds of \$1.05 million.

After adopting the official budget, the district learned that it would lose an additional \$257,600 in revenues

from various sources, adding considerably to the severity of its financial situation.

**THE BIGGEST LOSS** of revenue came in the form of state aid and was a direct result of the declining enrollment in the Walled Lake Schools. Enrollment figures are a key element in the formula which state aid revenues are based.

The district receives approximately \$1,500 in state aid for each student in the district.

In projecting state aid revenues for 1978-79, Carlson had estimated a total enrollment of 11,300 students for the present school year. That estimate was high, however. The actual enrollment for the present school year is 11,051.

The loss of 149 anticipated students equates to a loss of approximately \$200,000 in revenue from the state.

In addition, the district has projected that it will also lose some \$30,000 in earned interest on investments and some \$28,500 from Oakland County in special education funding.

School administrators decided in November to offset the loss of \$257,000 in revenues by trimming the budget in-

stead of adding that loss to the \$377,000 deficit anticipated in the original budget.

If the cutbacks had not been made, the district would anticipate a total deficit of approximately \$634,000 in the 1978-79 budget.

The additional loss of \$70,000 in revenues reported by Carlson apparently will be absorbed by the district by digging deeper into fund equity as opposed to implementing additional cuts.

Carlson indicated that the loss of \$30,000 in vocational education funding from the state would have to be absorbed by the general fund. He added, however, that effort would be made to reduce the amount of the loss by eliminating some expenditures.

"All of the programs funded through that grant are being offered," he said. "But we should be able to eliminate some of the costs when the funding is transferred to the general fund because we won't have to meet some of the requirements imposed when state funding is utilized."

Carlson also warned the school board that some additional revenues are not materializing as they had been pro-

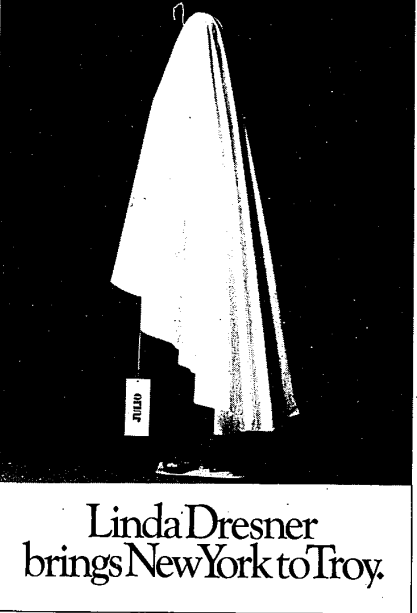
jected. For example, he said that he had heard some discouraging reports from the state on funding for transportation.

Carlson added, however, that he would not be able to provide hard and fast figures on other revenue areas until approximately June 1.

**Farmington Observer**  
USPS 187-840

Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Economic Newspapers, 26251 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class Postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48151. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151. Telephone 591-0500.

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