

Administrators agree to salary freeze

By Phillip Jerome
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Eight non-union administrators in the Walled Lake School District will

not receive a pay increase for the 1981-82 school year. The Walled Lake Board of Education last week rejected a recommendation from Superintendent Don Sheldon to

give non-union administrators a retroactive 8-percent increase for the 1981-82 year and a pay freeze for 1982-83.

The non-union administrators apparently agreed to the pay freeze. They were slated to receive an additional 8-percent in 1982-83. Included in the group are assistant superintendent for business Harry Carlson, assistant superintendent for personnel Barry Rosebrough, elementary education director Hugh Davies, secondary education director Donald Chalker, auxiliary services director Nelson O'Shaughnessy, transportation supervisor Betty Scherbaty, food services supervisor Kathy Yesh and purchasing agent Paul Martini.

THE BOARD'S failure to approve Sheldon's recommendation prompted an angry response from Robert Voss,

principal of Maple Elementary School. He said he felt "personal dismay and utter befuddlement."

"In the four years I've been in this district, I've become greatly concerned with the treatment of administrators afforded by this board of education," Voss said.

"I do not understand the motives of individual board members or groups of board members. You hire administrators to lead and then you won't let them lead."

"Board members have asked why administrators and principals are returning to the classroom; perhaps you should ask yourselves that question. We don't want special treatment; all we want is fair and equitable treatment."

Several building principals have asked to be reassigned to classroom duties for the 1982-83 year.

SHELDON ALSO expressed dissatisfaction with the board's failure to approve his recommendation.

"We have a group of administrators who are not part of any bargaining unit and have been content to wait a whole year with no salary increase. I'm a bit perplexed. This is a group that not only is entitled to, but deserving of, some recognition."

Sheldon also said top administrators have been dealt a "double cut" by the school board during the past year.

Three administrative positions were cut last year, and these people picked up the work load and carried on."

TWO MOTIONS related to Sheldon's recommendation failed to win board approval. A motion to approve the recommendation was defeated, 5-2, by trustees Robert Cooper and Mario Tozzi casting the yes votes.

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A subsequent motion to extend the contracts of the top administrators for two-years failed on a 4-3 vote. This time, trustees Cooper, Betty Champion and Tozzi voted yes.

Board members made few comments regarding their respective votes on the recommendations.

Fireworks are illegal

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sive are legal in the state of Michigan. It's not that easy, say members of Michigan State Police Fire Marshal Division's Hazardous Materials Unit. Almost all fireworks sold contain 25 grains of explosive, not .025, says Lt. Black, but the legal question revolves around what the devices do when lit.

"Anything you light that moves, it's illegal," Black says. "To be legal in Michigan a device has to stay on a stationary base."

Spinners, planes, bottle rockets, toy tanks propelled on wheels, items called "Bright-minded balls" and "Jumping Jacks" being sold around town are illegal because they move, say State Police officials. Firecrackers and roman candles are prohibited in the state because they explode.

PART OF THE confusion about the legality of fireworks in Michigan comes from the labeling on fireworks which reads: "DOT Class C Common Firework."

Many Class C fireworks sold in Michigan are legal, while others are not, says Lt. Gene Scmitt of the Michigan State Police. Legal fireworks sold in

the state usually spray colored sparks from a spike cylinder or cone placed on the ground. Other legal items offered for sale in Michigan include smoke bombs of all types, caps and sparklers. Merchants selling both legal and illegal items were unwilling or unable to provide the name of the person who sold them their fireworks.

"It's not like a guy you call, like a wholesaler," explains Albert Abdenour, co-owner of the Meadows Party Store in Farmington Hills. "The guy comes by in a truck and says 'Would you like to buy?' You see him maybe once a year, a month before the 4th of July."

In most local cases merchants were given a legal-looking form letter by the distributor listing fireworks approved for sale in the state. While the items on the list are legal some items being sold in the stores aren't on the list. The company on the paperwork is North Central Industries, Inc. of Muncie, Indiana.

The use of fireworks — both legal and illegal — caused a reported 300 fires last year in Michigan, according to state police fire officials. Eight persons were injured and approximately \$800,000 damage was caused in firework-related fires, said State Police.

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