

# Board ponders pay raise for school chief

By Patricia Bowling  
Novi-Walled Lake News

The Walled Lake Board of Education will consider a salary increase for Superintendent Don Sheldon at the Monday, Oct. 8 board meeting.

However, the board has agreed it will not make a decision on the extension of Sheldon's contract until January 14, 1985 — six months before the contract expires.

A Contract Review Committee, including board members Patricia Jackson, Cynthia Campion and Daniel McMullen, presented four recommendations pertaining to Sheldon's contract to the full board last week.

The committee said its recommendation for a salary adjustment was intended to bring the superintendent's salary-plus-annuity closer to the average in the county and the region. In addition, the increase would "prevent the occurrence of other salaries in the district bumping the salary of the superintendent."

SHELDON's annual salary currently is \$56,480, plus a \$5,000 per year tax-sheltered annuity. The board will not reveal the percentage increase it is proposing until the matter is negotiated between Sheldon and board attorney Dennis Pollard, said board president Bonnie Venke.

Sheldon's wages are slightly below the average superintendent's salary in Oakland County, which is approximately \$57,200, excluding annuities. (Twenty-five of the county's 28 school districts were surveyed — Southfield, Clawson and Pontiac did not respond.)

Twelve districts surveyed provided an annuity plan for the superintendent. These range from \$1,500 to \$5,000 over salary.

The school board also compared Sheldon's salary with others in Region

9, which includes Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties. According to an April 1984 report of the Michigan Association of School Administrators, the average superintendent's salary in Region 9 is \$51,900 annually. However, Venke noted this average includes many districts that are much smaller than Walled Lake. Therefore, the board also looked at salaries of Region 9 superintendents in districts with enrollments similar to Walled Lake's. When making this comparison, salary, annuities and other benefits, such as a car, were considered, she added.

IN ADDITION to the salary increase, the committee recommended that language be negotiated to explain the handling of unused vacation time upon the termination of the superintendent's contract. Both the superintendent and the school board requested that this issue be clarified, the committee reported.

The committee's third recommendation suggests a change in the contract provision which calls for Sheldon to receive a new car in January 1984. The committee requested new language be negotiated to allow a monthly car stipend instead of the new car.

The final recommendation was that the board not consider an extension of Sheldon's contract until January. In July, Sheldon requested a two-year extension of the agreement, but the board refused to consider it at that time. The January date was chosen because the "board and superintendent both need to make plans based on this decision," the committee explained.

In a 6-1 vote, the board adopted all four recommendations. Trustee Merlin Reeds dissented. "I believe the board of six years ago wrote a fair and complete contract . . . I do not believe any revision of the contract is called for or necessary," he said.



Bucket Brigade honorees (standing, from left) Helene Siegel, Judy Leder and Ruby Martin look over the books to be donated to the

Farmington Public Library with Learning Consultant Dinghy Sharp (seated, left) and Librarian Denise Albrecht.

## Bucket founder honors volunteers

Continued from Page 1

years of service to the Bucket Brigade."

THE DONATED books will be ones that small children like to take out and read, Sharp said.

"I would like to get the brand-new version of 'Pinocchio,'" she said. "It's beautifully done. I'm going to get some 'Paddington' books, too, because he's a popular story."

"They'll be books that the little people take out frequently. And when they open these books, they'll see that their Bucket lady is being honored."

Many volunteers have children in the system, but the honored women "have stayed on long after their children have gone into high school," Sharp said. Children using Bucket Brigade services aren't always slow learners.

"They're children who need some one-on-one," Sharp said. "Sometimes they're been sick and they have to get their work books caught up. Sometimes they don't quite catch the concept and they need practice."

"And sometimes they're very capa-

ble and gifted children who want to do something on their own while the other children are still doing their classroom work."

The Bucket Brigade idea has been widely copied in school districts across the nation. The Farmington District has helped export it by producing manuals and video tapes and making them available to would-be users.

"It's the Farmington District's claim to international fame," said Lawrence Freedman, Farmington's assistant superintendent for instruction. "I was lecturing out in Iowa a few years ago, and people would come up to me and say, 'Oh, you're from the place where Dinghy Sharp is.'"

BUCKET BRIGADE resulted about 20 years ago from a thesis submitted by Sharp's friend and fellow educator Barbara Thompson, who has since left the state.

"She was trying to get one-to-one tutoring in school — not after school and not privately — for children who just needed practice and reinforcement right there on the spot," said Sharp,

who came by her nautical nickname through her hobby of sailing on Union Lake.

The Bucket Brigade is going strong this year, but Sharp said she could always use more volunteers.

"We're finding that parents are returning to the working world and we

don't have as many as we used to," she said. "We wish we had more."

Persons who wish to volunteer for the Bucket Brigade should call Sharp at the Fairview Early Learning Center at 626-8335, or the elementary school their children attend.

## Communicators elect president

Rosedale Park resident Sandra J. Bunnell was recently chosen president-elect for the Detroit Chapter of Women in Communications Inc. (WICI).

Bunnell is president of Bunnell & Co., a public relations agency, counseling firm in Farmington Hills.

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