

How Tight A Ship Do Schools Run?

By EMORY DANIELS
FARMINGTON
The 1970-71 operating budget for Farmington public

schools is \$2 million higher than last year, and it would seem like a paradox to label it as an "austere" budget. But it is.
The paradox is only on the surface because an examination of the district's \$15.4 million budget indicates expenses could have been greater and a number of curtailments have kept the increase to a minimum.
An analysis of the budget not only reveals hard times this year but harder times next. What is particularly surprising is that the system was able to expand and yet experience only a \$2 million increase in costs.

LAST September the district opened two new schools, Wood Creek Elementary and Harrison High. This involves an expansion of 93 classrooms.
But in spite of the 93 new classrooms, the district has added only nine new teachers

to its total faculty. This was realized, in part, by a reduction of 18 teachers on the elementary level.
Last year, the district completed additions to existing school buildings which resulted in 34 extra classrooms. In 1969-70, the district added 41 teachers to its total faculty.

By comparing the classroom-faculty expansions of 1969-70 with this year, the addition of only nine teachers is viewed as a very meager expansion.
Last year, the operation and maintenance cost per room was \$3,975 compared to \$179 this year. The nine per cent increase in line with cost of living hikes and wage increases given the district's maintenance personnel and private tradesmen.

Of course, the maintenance expenses are higher by \$470,000 because of the 93 new classrooms in two buildings. These are expenses which cannot be trimmed drastically because school buildings need heat and electricity and a separate custodian staff.

The custodial staff has increased, but the custodian-per-classroom ratio has decreased slightly by seven per cent.

DISTRICT WIDE, 4126 more this year will be spent this year for each child enrolled in Farmington Schools. This represents a 15 per cent increase over last year for the money spent for each child.

This does not mean, however, that the child is the direct beneficiary of the 15 per cent increase in funds being spent on him.
The extra \$2 million being spent is divided as follows: \$1.6 million for instruction; \$470,000 for operation and maintenance; and a \$1,000 increase for transportation services.

or, 15 per cent of the total budget, in non-salary accounts which can be trimmed without layoffs.

ACTUALLY, the district would have been faced with a deficit budget this year (or drastic layoffs) had it not been for a \$707,000 surplus from 1969-70.
The district will spend about five per cent more this

responsibility for financing Farmington schools is shifting more heavily upon local homeowners.
This year, Farmington taxpayers will contribute 65 per cent of the district's fund while Michigan will kick in 35 per cent of the total budget with state aid payments. A few years back, the "sharing" was split 50-50.

The shifting of fiscal burden upon local taxpayers is a continuing trend in Farmington because the area is growing at a faster rate than other districts in the state.

For purposes of dividing state aid payments, the state has established four classifications labeled A-D. Farmington is now in Division A which includes the wealthiest districts in the state.

The state's division is based on ability to pay and Farmington's ability increased 19 per cent over last year. The tax base (expressed by total state equalized valuation) is \$48.1 million higher than last year.

New growth in the Farmington Area, plus the rising market value of property, will add \$1.4 million (a 19 per cent increase) to the district's coffers.

Farmington's "promotion" into the state's Class A Division means the district will get only \$246,000 more from the state this year, or a five per cent increase.

THERE WERE some definite cuts in the budget with the largest slice being a \$75,000 reduction for capital outlay.

The district eliminated administrative interns at the secondary and elementary levels for a savings of \$48,000.

Another \$12,000 was cut by limiting the amount of travel and in-service training for teachers and administrators.

But the real austerity of the budget is seen, not in the "cuts," but in a virtual freezing of staff during a year when its capital assets are expanded by 93 classrooms.

One of the promoters for this austerity approach, besides the economy and taxpayers revolt, was the State Supreme Court's recent ruling.

The school district's decision that school districts must furnish free textbooks and supplies cost Farmington an additional \$405,000 this year.

The operational tax rate remains the same this year although the debt retirement levy has been reduced slightly.

The total tax rate levied by Farmington Schools for operation is \$22 mills (\$22 per \$1,000 assessed valuation).

Looking ahead, five mills are due to expire in 1972 and another six mills are due to expire in 1973.

The total Farmington tax base is \$293 million.

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NOTICE OF HEARING
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
STREET IMPROVEMENT
Heather Hills Subdivision,
Farmington Township

The Oakland County Road Commission will hold a Public Hearing on an Apportionment of Benefits due to the improvement of certain public streets located in Heather Hills Subdivision, Section 28, Farmington Township, Oakland County, Michigan. This hearing will be held at the Oakland County Auditorium, Committee Room "A," 1700 North Telegraph Road, Pontiac, Michigan, on the 1st day of December, 1970, at 11:00 A.M. Eastern Standard Time.

Sol D. Lomerson, Chairman
Board of Oakland County
Road Commissioners

Published November 18, 21, 1970

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE PROBATE COURT FOR
THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

Estate of **EDWARD C. VAN SLYKE**, Deceased.
It is Ordered that on December 22, 1970, at 9 a.m., in the Probate Courtroom Pontiac, Michigan, a hearing be held on the petition of Clifford Howland, Special Administrator and Executor, praying for the examination and allowance of his First and Final Accounts; fees allowed; residue assigned; and said Special Administrator and Executor be discharged.

Publication and service shall be made as provided by Statute and Court Rule.
Dated: November 4, 1970
EUGENE ARTHUR MOORE, Judge of Probate

Albert P. Herzog, Attorney
2236 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan
Newspaper: The Farmington Enterprise & Observer
11-15, 22, 29

ALBERT P. HERZOG, Attorney
2236 Farmington Road
Farmington

STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE PROBATE COURT FOR
THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

Estate of **ANNA MALKS**, Deceased.
It is Ordered that on February 7, 1971 at 9 a.m., in the Probate Courtroom Pontiac, Michigan, a hearing be held at which all creditors of said estate are required to prove their claims and on or before said hearing file their claims, in writing and under oath, with this Court, and serve a copy upon Albert P. Herzog, Administrator, with Will Annexed, 2236 Farmington Road, Farmington, Michigan 48224.

Publication and service shall be made as provided by Statute and Court Rule.
Dated: November 6, 1970
DONALD E. ADAMS, Judge of Probate

Albert P. Herzog, Attorney
2236 Farmington Road
Farmington, Michigan 48241

Newspaper: The Farmington Enterprise & Observer
11-15, 22, 29

THOMAS J. BRADY, Attorney
3141 West Eight Mile Road
Livonia

STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE PROBATE COURT FOR
THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

Estate of **STANLEY J. JANAS**, Deceased.
It is Ordered that on January 26, 1971 at 9 a.m., in the Probate Courtroom Pontiac, Michigan, a hearing be held at which all creditors of said estate are required to prove their claims and on or before said hearing file their claims, in writing and under oath, with this Court, and serve a copy upon Richard Miller, Administrator, with Will Annexed, 2185 Metropolitan, Farmington, Michigan.

Publication and service shall be made as provided by Statute and Court Rule.
Dated: October 28, 1970
DONALD E. ADAMS, Judge of Probate

Thomas J. Brady, Attorney
3141 West Eight Mile Road
Livonia, Michigan
Newspaper: The Farmington Enterprise & Observer
11-15, 22, 29

WENDELL BROWN, Attorney
172 Ford Building
Detroit

STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE PROBATE COURT FOR
THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

Estate of **LOVA E. FOLSTER**, Deceased.
It is Ordered that on December 21, 1970, at 9 a.m., in the Probate Courtroom Pontiac, Michigan, a hearing be held on the petition of Jean Carter, the executrix named therein or to some other suitable person, and to determine who are or were at the time of death the heirs at law of said deceased.

Publication and service shall be made as provided by Statute and Court Rule.
Dated: October 30, 1970
NORMAN R. BARNARD, Judge of Probate

Wendell Brown, Attorney
172 Ford Building
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Newspaper: The Farmington Enterprise & Observer
11-15, 22, 29

Notice of Sale of Real Estate in the Township of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan

Farmington Public School District, Oakland County, Michigan, proposes to sell real estate to the improvement of the same, and hereon after described, upon the following terms and conditions:

- The property to be sold to the highest bidder, providing the bid is \$200 or more, with the bid price payable within twenty days after delivery by the School District of a Title Commitment in the amount of the purchase price showing marketable title in the School District.
- Sealed bids for the purchase of said property will be received at the Administration Office of the Farmington Public School District, 2549 Showasser, Farmington, Michigan up to 9:00 P.M. on Monday, November 14, 1970, at which time all bids will be opened and considered by the Board of Education.
- Envelopes containing bids should be plainly marked "Bids for purchase of real estate."
- Bids unaccompanied by a deposit in the amount of five percent of the bid amount in the form of a bank or cashier's certified check payable to the Farmington Public School District, which will be held as security for the bid, shall be accepted and the bidder fails to complete the purchase.
- The School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities in bidding.

The property is described as follows:
A parcel of land approximately two acres located on Grand River Avenue, West of Drake Road, sometimes called the Old Fairview School, more particularly described as:
Land in the Township of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan described as:
Part of the East one-half of the Southwest one-quarter of Section 27, Town 1 North, Range 9 East, Township of Farmington, Oakland County, Michigan described as: Beginning at a point on the North line of Grand River Avenue (U.S. Highway No. 16) distant 228 feet East of the West one-eighth Section line of said Section 20; thence North at the right angles with said North line 230 feet to an iron stake; thence East parallel with said North line 264 feet to an iron stake; thence South at right angles with said North line 330 feet to an iron stake; in the North line of said Grand River Avenue (U.S. Highway No. 16) thence West along the said North line 264 feet to an iron stake at the place of beginning.

Published November 22, 1970

analysis

Total instructional costs account for about 70 per cent of the total operating budget. Teacher salaries, which will cost the district \$905,000 more this year, consume 60 per cent of the budget, and total salaries account for 85 per cent of the budget.
Salaries are a fixed cost to the extent that this expense can be reduced only by layoffs. Annual salary increments plus negotiated across the board hikes increase salary expenses each year.
Total salaries paid this year will total \$12.5 million which leaves only \$2.2 million

AS ANTICIPATED, the

Sharpshooters Take Trophy

FARMINGTON match with some fancy shooting.

Chief Robert Deadman said two two-man teams got together to sweep the most points in the "B" classification. He said South Oakland County's 18 police departments are divided according to size into two classes each year.

CHIEF DEADMAN and Sgt. Daniel Byrnes, both consistent winners in the yearly competition, along with Sgt. Richard Miller and Patrolman Norman Rose, teamed up to take three first prizes and one second prize.

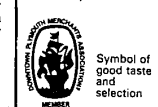
Each received a bronze, silver or gold medal-Deadman for limed fire, Miller for rapid fire, Byrnes for high aggregate and Rose for slow fire.

THE TRAVELING trophy engraved with the name of Farmington's Police Department will stand in the city's trophy case until next year when police sharpshooters will have another chance to claim it.



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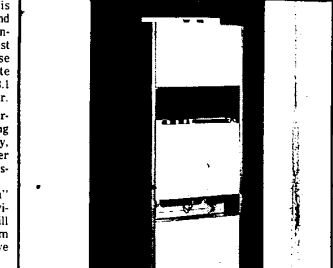


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