



DRIVES 87 MILES — Santa Claus (Dwight Brown) drove 87 miles from Otter Lake to Farmington to visit with children living in Woodbine subdivision during a Christmas party in the Farmington Community Center. The boy examining Santa's hand is Darrel Howland and sitting on the other lap is Gabe Hurst, both Woodbine residents in Farmington Township. (Evert photo)

Board OKs Budget After Hearing Faculty Objections

FARMINGTON The \$15.4 million operating budget for the 1970-71 school year passed Monday night with an amendment directing the administration to shift \$11,000 from other accounts back into student activities, counseling, music and art. This is \$2 million more than last year's school budget for the district's 26 schools serving 16,400 pupils.

MORE THAN an hour of discussion focused on budget shifts urged by trustee Aldo Vagnozzi to try to meet objections voiced by teacher spokesmen against passage of the proposed budget until they had time to make further recommendations.

Chief objections by the teaching staff came from Roger Allen, president of the Farmington Education Association (FEA) and from representatives of the counselors and athletic coaches. Allen's strongly worded protests against the board taking a vote without further study were backed up by Robert Newhouser for the FEA.

REDUCTIONS proposed by Vagnozzi were in allocations for clerical work in administration and in some elementary schools, for miscellaneous costs in secondary school allowances and travel to in-service training.

These changes, and any others the business manager was directed to find, have been earmarked for student activities and field trips.

The addition of \$1,500 recommended by the trustees would bring the student activity fund to \$10,500 and would include as much for field trips as last year.

Among the audience of 45 who attended the board's public meeting were many teachers. There were also three counselors on hand to urge expansion rather than reduction of the counseling services.

"At no time have students been more in need of counseling," James Whittlehead head of the counseling department said.

REPLYING to criticism of the proposed budget, Supt. Roderick J. Smith said: "Obviously when we were told to cut \$400,000, some changes would not be popular. But we have tried to cut back where it makes the most amount of damage. I wish we didn't have to make any cuts."

Allen said: "We question whether the teachers and the entire district can live with this budget." His objections were that even with Vagnozzi's amendment the board had not gone far enough in restoring programs.

"We feel the board has had bad advice and that there are doubts about the legality of several parts of this budget," Allen said.

Board President John Washburn advised Allen to submit written recommendations and not to use the board's meeting time to air grievances.

VAGNOZZI AND trustee Gary Lichtman, who supported the former's motion to amend the budget, explained that adoption of the budget and the amendment will not "freeze" the figures.

Dr. Smith and business manager William Prisk added that with adoption of the budget, the board can expect monthly print-outs of computerized reports showing where each account stands.

"I spent two hours with Allen after last week's public hearing on the budget," Dr. Smith said, "And I object to inferences that we aren't receptive to constructive

suggestions and that we haven't consulted with the teaching staff."

Washburn asked if expenditures since July 1 are in line with the proposed budget figures. Prisk answered yes but added that changes required by the amendment will have to come by Jan. 1 "to keep on track."

IMMEDIATE adjustments would include action on the Family Life Education recommendations and hiring a director for elementary education.

"We can't implement the Family Life committee's report this school year or even next if we don't get on it now," Vagnozzi pointed out. Several interested persons in the audience brought this up repeatedly during the hour-long budget discussion.

Vagnozzi also urged including \$2,000 for 1/12 of the budget allocation for the director of elementary education and to hire one later than June 1.

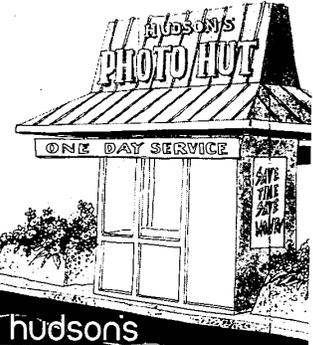
AFTER APPROVAL of Vagnozzi's amendment to the proposed budget Lichtman

moved for adoption of the budget and later made a motion to adopt administrative salary scales proposed in a memo by board treasurer Richard Peters.

The latter two motions won unanimous approval, but the amendment to the budget was opposed by Washburn and Peters. Vagnozzi's amendment was supported by Mrs. Stirling, vice-president Kenneth Perrin and trustees Ronald W. Emmitt and Lichtman.

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Announce Winter Concert

FARMINGTON The O.E. Dunckel Junior High bands will present a winter concert Dec. 17 at 8 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

The Cadet Band and Beginning Band will perform "The Twelve Days of Christmas," "The Step Off March," "Gregorian Choral" and "Good King Wenceslas." The Cadet Band will play by itself "Kings Go Forth" and "Marche de Rois."

The Varsity Band will present "Brasses to the Fore March," "A Song of Joy" and "Christmas Pique." The Concert Orchestra conducted by Miss Marjorie Mowat, string instructor, will perform "Selections From Messiah," "Sound of Music," "Jingle Bells" and "Two Hymns for Christmas."

The Concert Band, directed by Larry Detter, band director, will present "Fantasy for Band," "Watercress Suite" and "Christmas for Winds."

As a highlight of the marching season, the Concert Band will perform "Saints" concert, a specialty number featuring the percussion section conducted by Tom Perkins, student teacher from Central Michigan University. Tickets as a donation will be available from students at the door.



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