

Livonia Students Build House For Practice

By SANDRA ARMBRUSTER

LIVONIA Would you give your kids and their friends \$20,000 to plan, build and sell a house? That's the kind of permission the Livonia Board of Education gave when it approved a home construction

project to begin this year under the supervision of district staff members.

The project is expected to be a "practical action option" to traditional ways of classroom studying.

"Livonia has quietly been a leader in finding ways and places to learn outside the classroom," said Ed Amerman, director of career education.

"Students will have a chance to relate what they're learning to what life is all about."

Planning the project began in earnest during the last month when Amerman and Supt. R. H. Upton realized that the delayed opening of school gave them the opportunity they needed to get the project started.

"The project requires a lot of work that couldn't be done during the summer when the staff wasn't here," he continued. "This way we can start the project without interrupting students' schedules in midyear."

Right now staff members are busy trying to "get the concept implemented and show that it will work."

Consequently teachers and directors involved are "doing things students normally would do. In the future students will take over these initial steps," Amerman said.

Stress is placed on moving quickly because the project "is a sound idea that has already been proven in districts like Wayne-Westland and Ann Arbor," he added. "The project is expected to continue with a new house being constructed each year.

Formal application is being made for a mortgage of

\$20,000 from Michigan National Bank, which has offered the loan.

Costs will include instructor's salary, building site and materials, permits and tap-in fees, insurance, a selling commission and tools.

Administrators expect that the house will be sold in the \$20,000-\$30,000 range. It will be priced at fair market value so as not to compete with companies not having free labor. Tool costs will be provided for with accounting procedures, and a government class could pursue rezoning land owned by the school district for future construction sites.

Several alternatives are possible to avoid paying a three per cent salesman's fee to a realtor. The home could be sold to a service organization which could then auction it off to raise money for the club.

Another alternative would be to have students sell the house with the guidance of a real estate firm.

At the same time the mortgage application is in the works, an intensive search is being conducted for a lot in the \$5,000-\$6,000 range that has utilities and is immediately available for construction.

The house we build will not be substandard. It will enhance the area, not detract from it," said Amerman.

Students and teachers alike are "reacting with enthusiasm," according to Amerman. "They really want to get going."

Amerman expects 12-15 students to be selected for the actual construction work from all four high schools. He also expects that all departments in the schools will have an opportunity to participate in some phase of the project.

Examples include using drafting classes to draw up plans which the building trades classes can implement. Homemaking classes can do the interior decorating while ornamental horticulture classes could plan the landscaping.

"To study and draw is one thing, but to have responsibility for planning and doing is a real life responsibility," reasoned Amerman.

A business education class would work with accounting procedures, and a government class could pursue rezoning land owned by the school district for future construction sites.

"What better way is there to see government, and land use," questioned Amerman rhetorically.

Amerman said enough land is owned by the district to build a house each year for 10 years.

Students will learn personally about financing, construction and real estate," he continued. "When boys and girls complete this year they can go into an apprentice program. Some training puts them notches up in employability."

"This also puts adults and young people in a productive and constructive project that may make them feel different about each other in positive ways," he emphasized.

Directing the project from the supervision standpoint will be Arlie Fairman, coordinator of vocational education. Fairman will "see that the work gets done" and take charge of the accounting procedures.



BRADLEY COLLINS, 9, found a five-legged toad near Schoolcraft and Hubbard. The Kennedy Elementary School youngster holds the freak load for your inspection. (Observer photos by Bob Woodring)

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Annual Report for Clarenceville School District As of June 30, 1973

Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties Combining Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance For the Year Ended June 30		
	1972 General Fund	1973 General Fund
REVENUES		
Property Tax Levy	\$2,158,433	\$2,291,105
Interest and Penalties on Delinquent Taxes	6,903	6,903
Taxes Other than Property	9,747	7,334
Tuition	8,428	6,561
Interest on Investments	31,627	44,977
Miscellaneous	8,637	10,831
State School Aid	1,351,294	1,439,500
Driver Education	9,330	8,460
Vocational Education	4,584	11,048
Federal Programs	28,989	91,483
Tuition from Other Districts in State		750
County Special Education Tax	65,000	50,000
Total Revenues	\$3,682,942	\$3,968,107
EXPENDITURES		
Instruction	\$2,598,701	\$2,843,330
Administration	191,031	209,968
Attendance	17,139	18,768
Health Services	3,571	4,235
Pupil Transportation	115,582	124,410
Operation of Plant	377,141	391,507
Maintenance of Plant	105,561	126,751
Placed Charges	129,113	165,720
Capital Outlay	22,165	26,334
Miscellaneous	8,588	9,008
Total Expenditures	\$3,578,592	\$3,948,782
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 104,350	\$ 19,345
ADJUSTED FUND BALANCE, JULY 1	187,527	231,187
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30	\$ 272,077	\$ 250,512

Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties General Fund Balance Sheet June 30		
	1972	1973
ASSETS		
Petty Cash Funds	\$ 650	\$ 500
Cash in Bank	830,925	1,134,486
Taxes Receivable	207,813	220,961
Accounts Receivable	22,847	85,223
Accounts Receivable - Federal	14,600	11,078
Inventories:		
Due from Other Funds	31,987	34,018
Prepaid Insurance	1,566	1,740
Other Prepaid Expense	11,379	11,224
Accrued Interest Receivable	6,562	8,190
	11,240	16,269
Total Assets	\$1,299,170	\$1,523,659
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
LIABILITIES		
Current Short-Term Loans	\$741,850	\$850,000
Accounts and Encumbrances Payable	16,902	43,711
Salaries Payable	229,391	267,838
Salary Withholdings Payable	21,713	30,881
Due to Other Funds	11,243	7,026
Deferred Revenue	922	1,090
Deferred Revenue - Federal	12,072	7,029
Total Liabilities	\$1,027,093	\$1,273,147
FUND BALANCE		
Fund Balance, June 30	272,077	250,512
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$1,299,170	\$1,523,659

SUTHERLAND & YOE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
PLYMOUTH-NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

Donald H. Sutherland, C.P.A.
Timothy C. Yoe, C.P.A.
David C. McWilliams, C.P.A.
Charles L. Mann, C.P.A.

August 24, 1973

To the Board of Education
Clarenceville School District
Of Oakland and Wayne Counties
Farmington, Michigan

We have examined the combining balance sheet of the various Funds of the Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties at June 30, 1973, and the related combining statement of revenues, expenditures and fund balance for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances except as noted in the following paragraphs.

The amount of taxes receivable was not confirmed with the taxing units. However, we did satisfy ourselves by the application of other auditing procedures as to their fairness of presentation.

Our audit was on the financial records of the School District and not on the child accounting records.

The accompanying additional information is not necessary for a fair presentation of the financial statements, but is submitted as additional analytical data. The information has been compiled from the accounting records which were subjected to the tests and other auditing procedures applied in the examination of the financial statements mentioned above, which tests included tests of the recorded expenditures presented in Exhibit P through Exhibit X, relative to P.L. 91-229 and P.L. 830, Titles I and III programs as governed by regulations of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare relating to allowable expenditures under the Acts, and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

In our opinion, the accompanying combining balance sheet of the various Funds and the related combining statement of revenues, expenditures and fund balance present fairly the financial position of the various Funds of the Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties at June 30, 1973, and the results of their operation for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting procedures recommended for educational institutions by the State of Michigan, Department of Education, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Respectfully,
Sutherland & Yoe

Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties Schedule of Cash Receipts and Disbursements For the Year Ended June 30		
	1972	1973
BALANCE, JULY 1	\$ 6,424	\$305,219
CASH RECEIPTS		
Proceeds from Sale of Bonds	\$1,000,000	
Interest on Investments	1,845	43,228
Receipts for 1971 Debt Retirement Fund	4,639	3,950
Due from Other Funds	300	
Total Receipts	\$1,008,774	\$ 47,188
Total Receipts and Beginning Balance	\$1,015,208	\$352,507
DISBURSEMENTS		
Site Acquisition and Improvement	\$ 3,100	
New Buildings and Additions	3,328	\$340,878
Remodeling and Improvement	45,953	1,531
Furniture and Equipment	596	49,294
Special Assessment of Non-School Improvement	9,500	
Other Expenses	12,665	960
Due to 1971 Debt	4,639	
Transfer to 1971 Debt	18,750	
Due from Other Funds	300	
Total Disbursements	\$ 179,888	\$353,663
BALANCE, JUNE 30	\$ 835,319	\$ 45,444

Clarenceville School District of Oakland and Wayne Counties Schedule of Cash Receipts and Disbursements For the Year Ended June 30		
	1972	1973
BALANCE, JULY 1	\$78,388	\$106,329
RECEIPTS		
Current Tax Collections	\$118,500	\$450,644
Delinquent Tax Collections	17,078	25,651
Interest on Delinquent Taxes	1,469	1,333
Interest on Investments	6,347	10,633
Michigan School Bond Loan	25,700	30,500
Accrued Interest to Date of Sale	4,629	
Transfer from 1971 Building and Site Fund	18,750	
Total Receipts	\$148,483	\$518,796
Receipts and Beginning Balance	\$226,876	\$624,125
DISBURSEMENTS		
Board Principal	\$220,800	\$500,000
Interest on Bonded Debt	148,797	
Paying Agent Fees	743	74
Miscellaneous		52
Total Disbursements	\$470,340	\$500,000
BALANCE, JUNE 30	\$106,329	\$ 97,095

PHYSICAL ASSETS AND GENERAL INFORMATION		
	June 30, 1972	June 30, 1973
State Equalized Valuation	\$3,670,811	\$7,724,056
Value of Sites	40,000	450,000
Value of Buildings	13,500,000	14,000,000
Number of Buildings		8
Number of Classrooms	184	182
Number of Resident Pupils	3,777	3,622
Number of Non-Res. Pupils	21	38
Number of Fulltime Pupils	3,756	3,660
Number of Fulltime Teachers	176	170
Teacher Salary		
Minimum	8,200	8,500
Maximum	15,000	16,300
Pupil Teacher Ratio	22:1	21:1