

# Boring budget problem results in a layoff

by GWEN BOGH  
Post Correspondent

A motion was passed to lay off a teacher in a school board meeting at Boring Thursday night, with discussion of the budget causing the meeting to last almost until midnight.

The layoff is the result of a \$40,000 budget deficit.

According to Gale Meier, chairman of the board, the deficit was incurred by delinquent tax payers.

Over 50 persons attended the meeting, with the dismissal of Kevin Savage, the most recent addition to the teaching force, and potential curriculum cutbacks, being discussed.

Joe Taylor, superintendent, said that \$9,500 would be saved by laying

off a teacher. Another \$8,000 could be saved with an altered bus schedule, and \$1,000 could be saved by cutting field trips and other activities. From \$2,000 to \$3,000 could be cut from the sports program.

Money would also be saved by an adjustment in the school bus schedule. School officials told The Post they will be cutting mileage by half. Ordinarily there are 12 bus runs. The proposed schedule change would eliminate about half of those.

The topic that evoked the most debate Thursday night was the layoff of Kevin Savage.

Meier said, "Financially, we've got some problems." He said that they want to cut the budget in a way that would be least damaging to the programs.

Some said that eliminating a teacher would be damaging, having a direct impact on the students.

Extra classes would have to be taught by existing staff, and some class loads would be increased.

One teacher was lost this year due to retirement. She was not replaced.

Some teachers expressed concern about the loss of two teachers in one year, saying it would make it difficult for teachers to give as much individual instruction.

Shortening class time, changing the eight-period day to seven, rescheduling or eliminating the outdoor program and natural attrition were some of a teacher committee's ideas for saving money, as opposed to laying off a teacher.

Other suggestions from those at-

tending the board meeting were to eliminate the lunch program and have children bring sack lunches, cut the spring band program and reduce maintenance costs.

Don Robertson, Oregon Education Association Uniserve Representative, speaking on Salvage's behalf, pointed out some problems he saw with the budget.

He said the reference guide used by budget officers states that when working with a \$1 million budget it's customary for a five percent contingency fund to be included.

The contingency fund at Boring school was figured at one and one half percent, a rate too low, according to Robertson.

Referring to uncollected taxes in the deficit, Meier said, "If the

economy was different, we wouldn't have a deficit."

But Robertson said, "The district failed to generate anticipated revenue."

Robertson went on to say that most taxes are collected the following year. He added that the school's auditors, Kent and Snow of Oregon City, projected several over-expenditures in categories as other governmental units, vehicle maintenance and operations, plant operations-maintenance, and board of education.

According to Faith Wilson, deputy clerk of Clackamas School District 44 (Boring), the projected over-expenditures were caused by various, unexpected costs. They include interest incurred from a loan; vacation pay to office personnel; not budgeting enough for energy expenses; funds for additional custodial help; the hiring of a driver to transport special education students to Reynolds High School; and an entry error to be adjusted at

year's end of \$5,000.

Robertson went on to say that, according to the auditor, careful budgeting for the 1982-83 school year could alleviate some of the financial problems now at hand.

Savage told the board that he left a better-paying job with the post office in order to teach, and that he spent years going to school under the ROTC program in order to get a teaching job.

He said that in no way was he informed that this would be a temporary job when he was hired.

Some teachers were quick to point out Savage's sincerity and concern for his students, and how laying him off would have a negative effect.

While teacher and parent support was considered by the board, they went with the original recommendation—to lay off Kevin Savage.

The layoff takes effect Feb. 5. Savage may be recalled later if there is a job opening and if he has the proper qualifications.



More than 129 Royal Rangers gathered at the Sandy Assembly of God Church Saturday for Pinewood Derby races. Rangers from all over the area competed,

including the two pictured above.

Photo by Scott Newton

## Welches administrative rule change to affect Government Camp bus riders

by MICHAEL P. JONES  
Post Correspondent

A challenge to the Welches Schools Board's bus ridership rule has led to a temporary deletion of a four-year rule that forbids non-Government Camp students from riding the school bus up for an overnight visit.

Parents from Government Camp with children attending Welches Grade School challenged the school board at its Jan. 14 meeting, claiming that the rule was designed only for that area of the district.

Elsewhere, students are free to ride the bus and stay overnight at a friend's house, as long as they have written permission from both sets of parents.

That, according to Nancy Wolf, "was unjust and prejudiced."

She encouraged the board to treat each student equally, no matter where they live in the district.

Wolf and three other parents and the liaison from Welches School's newly organized Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), asked that either this ridership rule be changed with all students operating under the same rules, or that all transfers among buses be forbidden. This way, under no circumstance could a child be taken elsewhere in the district except directly home.

Kenneth Blackburn, school superintendent, said that this complaint is an annual one, and in the past the school board had always taken a "no opinion position" on the subject.

He said that the rule was instituted prior to the time he was hired by the district, after complaints arose that the bus was turning into a ski bus for those wishing to ski after school at Multnomah Ski Bowl.

"Do you have a solution," asked Blackburn of the group of parents.

"I don't really think that it's our position to offer a solution," responded Bob Brock of Government Camp.

"We feel that there's an injustice, and discrimination against the people in Government Camp, and it's up to the board to come up with a solution."

"We feel that our children should be treated the same as other children in the district."

Don Thornberg, board member, told the parents that problems developed with Government Camp years ago, and forbidding students to ride up to that community solved the problems.

He said that too many students were taking their skis to school and

then would ride up just to ski. Instead of the bus having room for the 36 required students, they would be faced with the burden of transporting 50 students.

The parents told the board that it was not fair that their kids should be discriminated against "just because of a few skiers."

They argued that they are not attempting to utilize the bus to transport their children's friends up for skiing, but only so they can spend the night, as is done in all other areas of the district below Government Camp.

"We have discriminated against Government Camp, true," admitted Board Member Bruce Erickson, "but the reason that we've discriminated against them was that Government Camp brought it on themselves."

Blackburn said that if non-resident students were to be indiscriminately allowed to ride up to Government Camp, that there would be a seating problem.

He said that he had been advised that the Government Camp bus is running between 32 to 34 passengers when it leaves Welches School. The bus, which is a four-wheel drive, is only designed to carry 36 passengers.

More riders, according to Blackburn, would force the district to purchase a 66 or 72 passenger bus, which would not be a four-wheel drive, as is necessary due to the weather conditions. He also said that the added cost could not be justified.

The parents argued that the ridership figures they collected this past month show only 20 students riding the Government Camp bus. Also, only eight to 10 were riding up past Rhododendron.

The parents recommended that the Rhododendron-bound riders be delivered to their stop first, and then the bus return for the Government Camp students.

This way there would be enough room for any student wishing to spend the night. No skis would be allowed in the bus and the Government Camp parents would self-police themselves to make sure the new plan worked.

The parents also told the board that they would give the school 48 hours written notice when a student is coming home with their children. Parents of the visiting student would also have to send a written notice during that time.

Erickson brought up the issue of available space. He said that he is concerned that if 10 students brought notes from home, and there are only

five seats available, "Who is to go and who is not to go?"

Carl Ostergren, the liaison to the board from the Welches PTA, said that looking at the problem from a simple mathematical standpoint, that the concern about the bus being overcrowded just doesn't compute.

"In order for it to be (overcrowded) kids in Government Camp would have to take home 10 percent of the entire student body, which on any given day, to me, doesn't seem conceivable," said Brock. "That's almost three kids per rider to crowd (onto) the bus."

Erickson also brought up the question of safety on the highway going up to Government Camp, which he said should be a consideration when allowing more non-resident students to ride up.

"Do we want to encourage or provide a mechanism to encourage more ridership on that run, because it is located in a ski area," asked Erickson.

Brock responded that "if it's safe for our children, why isn't it safe for your children?" He said that "the parents who are allowing their children to come up to Government Camp are well aware of and that is the responsibility they are taking."

Lea Behan, board chairperson, agreed and said that parents who write the required permission slip would be aware of the road conditions and are therefore accepting the responsibility.

"Whether it's safe is not the ques-

tion," said Erickson. "The question is, is it a necessity to provide a method of transportation so that a child can spend the night with another child, like they do in other areas?"

When the parents requested that the board vote on the matter, Erickson disagreed and said that there are a lot of ramifications that haven't been brought up.

He said that by requiring a 48-hour notice they would still be discriminating against Government Camp because everywhere else in the district there is only a 24-hour requirement. He added that "the board shouldn't make a motion based off of discussion during audience time," but should wait until the next meeting after thoroughly exploring the recommendation.

One Government Camp parent protested and said that they had been waiting four years, which is long enough.

Ostergren said that "the entire PTA is in full support of their (the parents from Government Camp) grievance." He emphasized that the PTA "had a membership of 106 strong."

"It should be important that the board members know that the PTA stands behind this group 100 percent," said the chairperson of the advisory committee to the PTA's Gene Shannon.

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## RNG to discuss hydros

The Rhododendron Neighborhood Group has scheduled a meeting for Feb. 7 at 3 p.m.

Beth Baker, secretary-treasurer of the RNG, said that the meeting is being held to discuss with its members a plan of action to take regarding the mini-hydroelectric project proposed for Henry Creek, above the town of Rhododendron in the Zigzag Mountains.

Baker said that the RNG has taken a position of opposition against the proposed hydro, fearing that the hydro will affect Henry Creek, which is a major source of water in the area.

They feel a hydro would increase erosion, affecting the migration and spawning grounds of steelhead and salmon. They also fear that future plans to enhance the stream's trout

runs would be adversely affected.

The RNG will also be reviewing the ballots that the organization sent out to the area's water users during the first part of January. Baker said the direct-mail poll was undertaken as a way to democratically assess whether the water users support or oppose the hydro project.

The RNG will also provide an update on the Planning Commission's proposed amendment to the Zoning and Development Ordinance, which will be going before the Clackamas County Planning Commission next month.

The amendment would allow the construction of hydroelectric projects on slopes greater than 35 percent, which currently is a violation.

## Unemployment called county's top problem

Vince Ferrante of Oregon City recently announced his candidacy for Clackamas County Commissioner, position 2.

"I would hope to bring some harmony to the board," said Ferrante, an account manager for Lever Brothers for almost 30 years.

Problems on the board prompted him to run. There are problems that need to be resolved but haven't been, he said.

Ferrante is currently serving, and has served for seven years, on the Beaver Creek Telephone Coop board, and also serves on the Clairmont Water District board.

He also served an unexpired term on a rural fire district board.

Ferrante said that unemployment is probably the biggest problem in the county.

He said that the county needs to attract some industry and get as many people employed as possible.

He said that it is easy for any politician, at any level, to find things wrong with the system, but that realistically a person couldn't correct all the faults.

He said that he would just "have an open door, listen to people."

He said that he'd try to be objective, "and just use a lot more common sense."

Working for Lever Brothers he's made calls on wholesalers and retailers all over Clackamas County, "which may or may not be an advantage."

If elected commissioner, Ferrante said that he would continue to get around as much as possible, although

he knows the job would keep him busy. He said, "I would just do as much as I could, give 100 percent."

He said that his campaign will be low budget, with probably 95 percent of it word-of-mouth. He said that he doesn't have that much money to put into a campaign and doesn't figure a lot of other people do either.

Ferrante, a Democrat, is married and has three daughters. He and his wife have lived in Oregon City 12 years.



Vince Ferrante

## County employees key to efficiency

Attorney Dale Harlan of Milwaukie announced recently that he will be a candidate for Clackamas County Commissioner, position no. 2.

Harlan, who has practiced law in Milwaukie since 1958, is a former State Representative. He served during two regular and two special sessions of the Legislature in the mid-60s.

In addition, he has served on the city council and in various capacities on citizens committees for the city of Milwaukie and Clackamas County. Harlan said he hopes to restore some unity to the Board of County Commissioners, and to increase the credibility of government generally.

He said that there are many good county employees anxious to accomplish as efficient and economic county government as possible. With good leadership, he said, good county employees and department heads could accomplish more at less cost to the taxpayers.

Harlan said he expects it to be difficult to defeat Commissioner Stan Skoko in the Democratic Party Primary in May, with numerous candidates in the contest.

He said that he and Skoko have long been friends, and have pledged to remain personally friendly, regardless of the outcome of the campaign.

He pointed out that Skoko has name familiarity and has said he would seek another term so he could serve as county commissioner for 24 years, although Skoko has not filed for his sixth term.

Harlan feels he cannot resist the requests of friends that he become a candidate this year, as many people feel it is time for a change.

He said that if his supporters come through with promised support of a material nature, and devotion of personal time, that he should be able to

conduct an effective campaign.

He will be assisted by his legal assistant and wife, Estle, in the campaign.

Harlan is a graduate of the University of Oregon in political science and economics. He studied Law at the University of Colorado and Stanford University, graduating in 1952.

Harlan and his wife have six children.

Others that have filed for position 2 include Duane Bock of Milwaukie, Bev Henderson of Lake Oswego, Diane Quirk of Portland and Scott Taylor of Canby.

Henderson is a Republican, the rest are Democrats. The Primary is May 18.



Dale Harlan