

Rural School Board Takes Supervision over Budgeting

County school districts in Lane county are going to have to make their budgets this month—only six months before the start of the school year. And they will have to do so under the supervision of the new all-county rural school board.

The rural school board idea was approved by voters in the state in 1945. It takes all powers and authority to levy taxes away from the local school board, and places it in the hands of the new over-all organization.

The county is divided into five areas of equal population. Its members include all school districts less than first class in rank. First class districts can be members if they want to. Union high districts are exempt also.

Under the new set-up each school district in the county will make up a proposed budget and submit it to the central rural board, if it is approved by the district's voters. It must be into the rural board by Jan. 31.

Can Pass On
The rural board is empowered to consider each proposed budget for approval or rejection. If they approve the budget, but the district needs more money than they can expect under the six-per cent limitation, the rural board calls an election for an additional levy.

These "six per cent limitation" elections, (districts frequently have to levy over their limitation) were held with the budget election before the formation of the rural board.

Financing
Bonded indebtedness and negotiable interest-bearing warrants and serial levies on each district's budget will not be included in

the equalized county-wide rural district levy.

A school district will be informed by March 15 of any changes made in the budget, and the district will then be allowed a hearing. But the rural board determines the final amount of the budget which shall be included in the equalized tax levy. Districts will be notified by April 1 of the final amount of their budget.

Elections
If it is necessary to exceed the six per cent limitation on the county-wide levy, the rural board will call an election on the "third Monday in April," according to the law.

After all preliminary budgeting is completed, districts may vote supplementary budgets which will not be examined by the rural board.

County school superintendent Mrs. Lucille Klinge said the Lane rural board has set up the following policies on budgeting:

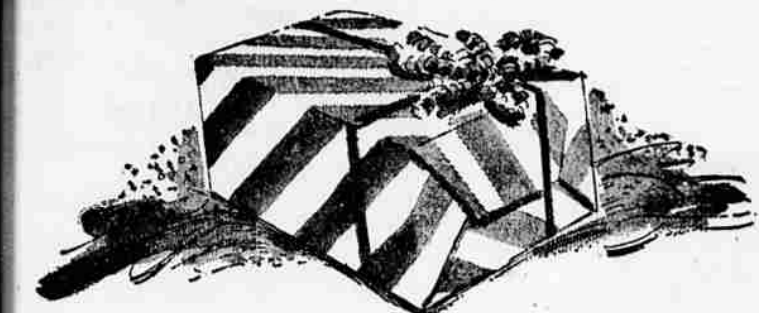
Existing salary schedules will be allowed, plus "increased living costs, unless salary is out of line with people in comparable positions."

The rural board will allow:

- Minor alterations, new furniture and equipment for additional pupils "as required by standards."
- Betterment assessments and a library to "meet standards."
- Text books "to comply with the law."
- Approximately 5 per cent of the budget for an emergency fund.
- "All programs and services now in existence will be maintained."

Lane County representatives from the five districts are:

- Zone I, A. S. Davidson, Mapleton;
- zone II, Peter M. Petersen, 2490 Elmira Road, Eugene;
- zone III, Carl R. Baker, Vida;
- zone IV, Sidney Bales, Dorena; and zone V, Harold N. Traxler, Creswell.



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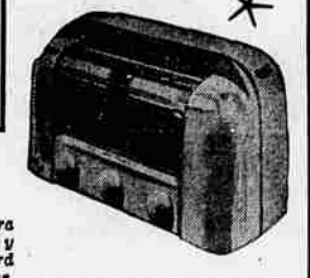
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