

Outdoor School, Elementary Counselors Cut From 509-J School Budget

by Sandy Rangila

Public review of the proposed 1979-80 District 509-J school budget, which eliminates an elementary counselor program and deletes the Camp Tamarack outdoor school, has been scheduled for Monday, April 9. The hearing will be the last before the final budget goes before the voters on May 22.

At their March 8 meeting, the district's budget committee approved cutting a proposed \$59,000 for elementary school counselors and \$12,000 which had been tagged for the sixth grader's two weekly sessions at Camp Tamarack outdoor school.

The other major proposal cut from the budget was \$26,000 for an additional third grade teacher at Madras elementary.

The budget committee defeated the elementary counselor program and the additional third grade teacher by a vote of 5-2.

The total budget for 1979-80 now stands at \$5.7 million, as compared to \$4.9 million for 1978-79. The required levy will be about \$3 million as compared to \$2.5 million for the current year. That represents a gain of nearly

14.5 per cent over the current levy.

Although cutting elementary school counselors from the budget is nothing new to the 509-J school district, it has been a sensitive and emotional area. Board member Lloyd Smith of Warm Springs fought the cut, noting that the elementary level is the most important in the school system.

Smith explained that about 98 per cent of potential dropouts can be identified at the grade school level and said he feels strongly that proper guidance and counseling at an earlier age could cut down on dropouts at upper levels.

He said that an elementary school counselor program is hard to sell because it is difficult to evaluate its effectiveness.

Although Warm Springs has carried on a grade school counselor program (funded through Title IV Part A) for the past 6½ years, the 509-J district has never included such a program in its budget. An elementary school counselor program has been proposed since 1974, but it

has never made it into the final budget passed by the voters.

"The elementary counseling program is becoming a sacrificial lamb, almost," commented Assistant Superintendent Ernie Weber. "We're disappointed, of course, and feel a real need for it," he added.

Weber said he thinks a general lack of understanding of what an elementary counselor does is the problem. He said that the general public needs to be educated in that respect. "We feel that a preventative rather than a remedial approach is best," he said. It's important to identify and deal with learning problems and disabilities in a positive way, he noted.

According to Superintendent Darrell Wright, the Camp Tamarack outdoor school was eliminated because it is difficult to get high school senior counselors and because it interferes with the regular school curriculum.

An addition to the 1979-80 school budget was the re-establishment of the forestry clusters at Madras high school, an ongoing program which was delet-

ed from the current year's budget.

Other proposals adopted by the budget committee included: funding for a second cross-country coach, funding for a teacher-principal at Metolius Elementary, hiring one additional P.E. specialist at the elementary level, and the hiring of an

instructor for the forestry curriculum at Madras High.

The proposed budget will be up for public review at the board's regular meeting April 9 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Support Services Building on Buff Street across from the high school.

Education Conference Set

The fourth annual Oregon Indian Education Association Conference will be held April 20-22 in the Winema Hotel at Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The conference is open to anyone interested in Indian Education. Among the main topics that should be of interest to students include Alcohol and Drug Abuse, student tutors and their impact, colleges and their offerings, and financial aid for college.

The External Degree Program from Oregon State University will be offering Graduate and Undergraduate Credit for

the conference.

Registration and requirements will be available Friday April 20, 1979. Cost: Pre-registration \$20.00 due April 16, 1979. At conference the fee will be \$25.00. Make checks payable to: Linda Anderson, Box 515, Chiloquin, Oregon 97624.

The Winema Hotel has rooms available with rates \$11.66 for single, \$20.14 for double and \$26.00 for four people. For reservations phone 503-884-4881. For further information contact Lynn Anderson phone 783-2660 or 783-2252.

Hearings Scheduled For Indian Education Funds

Interior Assistant Secretary Forrest Gerard has announced that public hearings will be held at seven locations between March 28 and April 13 on proposed formulas for distributing Johnson-O'Malley Act funding to schools serving Indian students.

Six alternative proposed formulas were published in the Federal Register March 9 for review and comment. The formulas will be revised according to comments received by May 1 and submitted to a vote of the tribes. The formula chosen by the tribal vote will be published as a final rule.

The 1978 Education Amendments Act (P.L. 95-561) requires that the distribution formula be established as a regulation in this manner.

The Johnson-O'Malley funds are used to provide supplemental programs for Indian students in public schools and other non-Federal education programs. In fiscal year 1979 the appropriation for this purpose, serving approximately 171,000 students, was \$31,675,000.

The current distribution formula is based on the number of eligible Indian students for whom funds are sought, multiplied by a national average per-pupil expenditure and a weighting factor which is intended to take into account the differences in education costs among the states.

The public hearings will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, March 28-29; Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 29; Albuquerque, New Mexico, April 6-7; Sulphur, Oklahoma, April 9-10; Fort Hall, Idaho, April 6-7; San Diego, California, April 9-10; and Nashville, Tennessee, April 12-13.

For additional information contact Judith Zundell, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240 (202 343-4576).

Written comments on the proposed formulas should be sent to the above address for the attention of Deputy Assistant Secretary Rick Lavis.

Simnasho Kids Seasoned Travelers

Months of bake sales, bottle drives and concessions paid for twelve Simnasho Grade School students who took their dream trip to Disneyland and the San Diego Zoo during spring vacation.

Back home safe and sound after five days of hectic travel, the kids and their four adult chaperones are "recuperating," according to teacher Rich Little. It will take some time for the excitement to wear off, but Little hopes to tap some of it for classroom lessons.

"The kids got a lot out of the trip," commented Little, "and they're going to keep learning from it."

One sobering fact is that the students still need to raise the money they owe for the trip. Although they spent \$1,700 less than they expected to, they have some debts to pay off.

No sooner did they return but Little put them to work at a quilting and craft session to produce items for their upcoming auction. That auction is planned for April 5 at the community center (see calendar for more details).

Besides being fun, the trip taught the young travelers some important lessons in the concept of time. A tight schedule kept them hopping and very aware of the clock. Even Mr. Little learned that there are only 24 hours in a day, when he had to drop some activities from the ambitious itinerary.

Students also learned about traffic, having been tied up in more than a few jams. Getting anywhere takes twice as long in Los Angeles as it does on the reservation, they discovered.

Flying was a new experience for most of the kids. Little said

that the upset stomachs on the flight down were not at all evident on the return trip. "They were all pro's," said Little.

Only once did a child become separated from the group. She wandered away during their visit to the San Diego Zoo and gave her chaperones and fellow students a scare. But she wandered back a half hour later, after the authorities had been alerted, apparently unaware that she had been "lost."

Little said he was pleased with the responses the group elicited from the public. Compliments on their good behavior were frequent and people were curious about where the kids were from. The kids happily did some P.R. for Simnasho.

Pictures and more details will appear in the next edition of Spilyay Tymoo.

Look, up in the Sky . . .

Warm Springs kids will have their heads in the clouds for four weeks in April when Johnson-O'Malley sponsors a glimpse into the mysteries of the universe.

Three classroom sessions will be followed by a trip to Pine Mountain Observatory in eastern Oregon where students will view planets and stars through powerful telescopes.

Instructor Ben Boswell will introduce interested students and parents to such astronomical phenomena as constellations, the solar system, and the moon. The four week program will begin April 3 at the Warm Springs Community Center.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

April 3 - 7:00-8:30 - Community Center

Theories of the Solar System

Galileo's Observations
April 10 - 7:00-8:30 - Community Center

Identify Constellations
Legends of Constellations
(Parents invited)

April 17 - 7:00-8:30 - Community Center

Tour of the Solar System
The Moon

April 21 - 4:30-10:30 - Pine Mountain Observatory

Tour observatory
View star clusters, nebula, planets
(Parents invited)

Those students interested in attending may simply show up at the Community Center Tuesday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Doyle Whipple or Ben Boswell at Madras Junior High, 475-3131.

