

Board, Teachers Reach Pay Agreement; Coming Budget Discussed

Supt. Daniels Predicts Deficit to Start 1968-69

Starting salary of \$6000 per year for teachers with a bachelor degree and no experience was agreed upon as a base for the Morrow county school district at a meeting of the board of directors and the professional consultation committee, representing teachers, Tuesday night at the Lexington school administration office.

An earlier request for \$6200 by the committee had been rejected by the board at its last regular meeting. Three of four other proposals by the teachers were also rejected at the regular meeting.

The \$6000 proposal was made Tuesday night, following the first budget meeting of the school district, as one of three points substituted for those which had been rejected.

Committee proposals were as follows:

1. That a salary schedule with the present columns and index be maintained but with the following adjustment made: a. That the base salary for a beginning teacher with a BA/BS be \$6000.

2. That the Morrow county School Board become a participant in the purchase of a health insurance plan for each teacher in the district.

3. That the Board re-evaluate the present personal leave policy for teachers.

Increment at 4%
At the regular January meeting the teachers had also asked for an increase to 5% increments each year on the salary schedule instead of the present 4%. Their second proposal eliminated asking for the increase, and the 4% increment remains.

As tentatively figured at the meeting, the increase to a \$6000 base from the present \$5800 base with proper raises to other teachers throughout the schedule will increase instructional costs of the district about \$25,000 per year.

Present instructional budget is approximately \$691,000 for the 1967-68 year. Next year with increments it would increase to approximately \$702,045 on the current salary schedule. With the new base, the figure will go to about \$727,000.

Supt. Ron Daniels, who took no position in the discussion except to present facts and figures, said that it is possible that some teaching positions may not have to be filled for the coming year because of the solidifications of teaching loads may be made and because the enrollment in the system has declined somewhat during the past several years.

Vote 3 to 1
Vote on the new base, which came following a motion by Director Ralph Skoubo, was three yes, one no and one abstaining. Director Beverly Anderson voted in favor of Skoubo. Director Irvin Rauch voted no, and Director Jack Sumner abstained.

Mrs. Gunderson said that she did not feel a 2 to 1 vote decisive enough on such an important matter, and Chairman Don McElligott then cast his vote in favor of the motion, making it 3 to 1. Two directors, Maxwell Jones and Dr. L. D. Tibbles, were absent.

The second point of the proposal brought probably more discussion than the base salary. The consultation committee asked that the district participate in a purchase of a health plan for each teacher in the district because under the plan proposed the benefits are broadened when the district participates by sharing in the cost of the insurance.

Currently about 90% of the 90-member faculty in the system is covered on a health insurance plan. Cost per teacher per month is \$9.62. Those who cover families pay additional.

The teachers asked that the district pay any part of the coverage so that they would qualify for the broader benefits.

Director Rauch proposed that the base salary of \$6000 be reconsidered and lowered to \$5900 per year with the district paying all the health insurance, which would amount to approximately \$115 per teacher per year. He argued that the teachers would gain about \$15 per year more by this method than they would with the \$6000 salary base.

Vote Against Participation
However, some directors hesitated to open this area of "fringe benefits," and a poll of the six of seven consultation committee members present showed that they wished to stand on the \$6000 base.

The committee then pointed out that any salary participation by the board would qualify them for the broader coverage. Eventually Director Sumner moved that the board pay \$2 per teacher per month, and this resulted in a 2-2 tie vote. Chairman McElligott broke the tie by voting no, and the matter stands at that point.

The proposal for re-evaluating the personal leave policy for teachers will be considered at a later date. Dick Carpenter, who was spokesman for the committee at this meeting, said that it was not the intention of the committee that a decision be made on this now, but that it be studied in the future.

In presenting the three new proposals, Carpenter said that

the teachers had reviewed their requests, made adjustments and felt that their new proposals were "realistic."

He pointed out that indications are that starting salaries of teachers around the state will be increased this year and will average probably about \$6000 for the base.

Carpenter stressed the need for cooperation and working together, adding that the teachers wanted full support of the board, the budget committee and the public.

He stressed that the salary schedule should be comparable to other districts so that good teachers could be hired and held in the system.

Supt. Daniels will use the \$6000 base salary in computing figures for the 1968-69 school budget.

Red Cross Points To Vietnam Needs, Chapter Advised

Needs of servicemen in Vietnam are getting major attention of the American Red Cross at the present time. Bob Mockabee of Yakima, Wash., field representative of the organization, told members of the Morrow county chapter of the Red Cross at a luncheon meeting January 11 in the Wagon Wheel Cafe.

The needs are "really taxing the Red Cross program," he said. One out of every three servicemen in Vietnam received Red Cross service during the past year, Mockabee said. More than 51,000 messages were handled for the servicemen overseas during the past month. Included were a number of Morrow county men.

"These young men are serving, fighting and dying over circumstances which they have no control," Mockabee declared. "They need and deserve our support."

He pointed out that this service to the military by the Red Cross is in addition to the community programs of first aid, water safety, blood, disaster relief and others.

A regional meeting was held in Pendleton on January 23 to consider additional support needed because of the demands of Vietnam. Letters were mailed to many in Morrow county asking their participation in the all-day meeting.

"I have nothing but praise for Morrow county's support of the Red Cross and the work being done by the chapter here," Mockabee said. He pointed out that the county "came real close" to raising its \$1400 Red cross fund goal last year. Quota for the fund drive this year, to be held in March, will be \$1428. The chapter is now in the process of organizing for the drive.

Another School Suffers Burglary

Another school was hit by burglary, apparently Friday night, when four typewriters and two portable record players were taken from the Heppner junior high school building, Ron Daniels, district school superintendent, said.

Only a few weeks ago, the Riverside High school lost more than \$800 when a burglary occurred there.

Janitors noticed Saturday that someone had been in the junior high building, Daniels said. It has not been learned definitely how entrance was gained.

Teachers pinpointed the loss Monday when they reported for duty. Value of the missing articles is estimated at \$400, Daniels said.

This loss is not covered by insurance because directors decided sometime ago in considering theft insurance that premiums would exceed probable loss. Another check is being made of insurance costs now, the superintendent said.

Entry in the junior high school is another in a series of local burglaries that have been unusually heavy this winter. Bristow's Market in Ione and Del's Market in Lexington are among those business establishments which have been entered recently.

Two More File For Offices Here

Two more incumbent Morrow county officials filed for the May primary election during the week in the office of Mrs. Sadie Parrish, Morrow county clerk.

Mrs. Sylvia McDaniel, treasurer, will be a candidate for nomination on the Republican ballot as she seeks another term in the treasurer's office.

Walter Hayes of Boardman, county commissioner, filed also to run on the Republican ticket for nomination to succeed himself as commissioner.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

Heppner, Oregon 97836, Thursday, January 25, 1968 10 Cents



THREE MEMBERS of the Heppner Soroptimist Club admire a handknit sweater of Irish wool yarn, one of a number of souvenir items shown by Judy Conner (right), IPYE student to Ireland, following her illustrated talk at the club's meeting last week. At left are Mrs. John Fleisher, program chairman; Mrs. Marjorie Wilcoxon, former county extension agent, and Mrs. Bill Johnson, club president. (Story on page 5) (G-T Photo)

College Directors Propose Bond Issue

Umatilla and Morrow county voters will soon be asked to authorize construction of the third phase of the Blue Mountain Community College campus.

The college board of directors voted unanimously January 11 to place before district voters a \$1,250,000 bond issue to add a third multipurpose building to accommodate the growing cultural and agricultural needs of the college.

Facilities to be included in the proposed new building include a library, student center, vocational agricultural wing, fine arts, lecture hall, and administrative offices. Several teaching stations and faculty offices would be included in the new building.

In approving plans for the bond issue election the board of directors proposed a major change in the college's financing structure. The college is presently financing its building program under a serial levy of \$120,000 a year. If the bonding proposal is approved by the voters, the serial levy would be replaced by the bonds at an initial savings to taxpayers of about 20 percent for the first three years. Thus, a taxpayer who is presently paying approximately \$2.50 in taxes for college construction on a \$10,000 home, would pay only about \$2.10 per year under the proposed bonding program, if the bond is retired in equal amounts over a 20-year period.

Three More Years on Levy
The present \$120,000 annual serial levy would expire in three years, if the bond issue were not passed. Whether or not the levy would be extended at that time would have to be approved by the voters.

At its Thursday night meeting the board directed that an educational program be conducted to explain throughout Morrow and Umatilla counties the needs now facing the college. Actual date for the election has not yet been set. In approving the proposed bond issue, members of the board expressed concern over the rapidly increasing needs of the college and the accompanying trend of building costs. "The college has already outgrown its present facilities," President Wallace W. McCrae told the board, "and if needed facilities are not added, enrollment would have to be curtailed and needed programs reduced."

Construction costs are going up at about 5% a year, the board was told by Architect Donald Erickson, and the increase in costs this year is expected to be 5.7%.

Matching Funds Available
The board also noted the timeliness of starting construction this year in order to take advantage of state matching funds. The state has allocated \$250,000 to Blue Mountain Community College this year, and if construction is delayed, this money could be reassigned to another college. Also considered by the board was the promise of additional state funds for future construction. If the proposed building levy is approved, Blue Mountain would be entitled, under the present state formula, to additional future construction funds. Under the prior credit provision approved by the legislature, state funds will be available on a 65%-35% basis for additional building bond retirement without additional local matching money.

The board of directors has studied the college's building needs for the past nine months and visited several community colleges in Oregon and Washington before its Thursday night meeting.

Members of the board expressed concern over the lack of adequate library facilities and the absence of a vocational agricultural center. They emphasized the need for a student center, especially for the commuting students, and agreed that a wide variety of teaching and cultural activities. An office for college administration would also be provided. The administrative office is presently located in rented office space in downtown Pendleton.

Attorneys to Open Office in Condon
Winter and Balfe, attorneys, will open an office in Condon beginning next week. The office there will be staffed on Mondays and Tuesdays with Herman Winter and Joe Balfe alternating at various times on going there.

Both attorneys will continue to live in Heppner and conduct their practice from the office here. For the present the Condon office will be open only on Mondays and Tuesdays, but other times may be arranged by appointment.

Judge Henry Kaye To Speak Monday
Circuit Judge Henry Kaye of Pendleton, who serves on the bench in the second position for Umatilla-Morrow county district court, will be the speaker at the Monday luncheon meeting of the Heppner-Morrow county Chamber of Commerce.

National Wheat Meet Calls Three

Three from Morrow county, including Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jepsen and E. H. (Ted) Miller, Jr., are attending the annual meeting of the National Association of Wheat Growers in Wichita, Kan., this week.

Miller left Saturday by train for the convention and Mr. and Mrs. Jepsen left Sunday by airplane. Mrs. Miller said Tuesday that her husband had called and said that he had arrived Monday. Those who had gone by plane encountered some delay from fog but also have arrived at the convention site.

Jepsen, past president of the Oregon Wheat League, represents the public relations committee at the national meeting and Miller represents the research committee.

C. Allen Tom of The Dalles, national president, is presiding at the sessions which started Monday and continues through Thursday. He gave his report on Tuesday morning. An address by the Hon. Robert B. Docking, governor of the state of Kansas, was a highlight of the afternoon.

Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, was scheduled to address the convention on Wednesday and Sen. Frank Carlson of Concordia, Kan., is to speak Thursday morning at 11:15.

The Jepsens plan to be back home Friday and Miller is due early Saturday morning.

Wranglers Slate Princess Tryouts

Wranglers club will hold tryouts for princess for the 1968 Morrow county Fair and Rodeo on Sunday, February 4, at 2 p.m. at the Wrangler grounds, Mrs. Ron Currin, secretary, states.

To be eligible a girl must be a 1967 Wrangler member, 16 years of age or a junior in high school, and not be more than 21 years of age.

If weather is bad, the contest will be moved to the fair grounds to be held in the indoor arena.

Those taking part will be judged 50% on horsemanship, 30% on personality and 20% on appearance.

"Everyone interested is invited to come to see this year's selection," Mrs. Currin said.

Merchants Decide On Year's Events

Heppner merchants decided on promotional events for the year when they met last Thursday at the Wagon Wheel Cafe with Bill Rust, merchants' chairman, presiding.

A Washington's Birthday sale is the next event scheduled, to be held in February. In April, a Moonlight Sale is tentatively planned. May will emphasize Mother's Day, and June will be Father's Day and Dollar Days.

Sidewalk Sale will be in early July, and Back to School promotion is planned in August. Moonlight Sale will be in September, Crazy Days in October and Christmas Opening in late November.

\$6,000 Base Granted; Insurance Help Rejected

Because of a decline in resources from sources other than taxes during the 1967-68 school year and the fact that the 1966-67 budget was overexpended, the Morrow county school district faces the prospect of starting the coming fiscal year with a deficit of \$15,385, Supt. Ron Daniels told members of the school board and budget committee Tuesday night.

He presented his budget message at the meeting, the organization session of the budget committee, in the school administration office at Lexington.

"This presents a rather bleak picture to begin with, Daniels said, "but any other approach would be unrealistic."

The superintendent, who is budget officer for the district, said that the 1966-67 school year finished with a deficit of \$8,385. Budget for 1967-68, which necessarily had been prepared several months prior to the start of the fiscal year, had anticipated a cash carryover of \$7,000. This amount was included in an expected increase in receipts of approximately \$40,000. However, the \$40,000 increase was not realized, and the deficit resulted.

Wahtonka There, Blue Devils Here On Mustang Slate

By BOB DOBBS

Heppner invades The Dalles Friday to meet the Wahtonka Eagles. It will be the second league game for both squads and the second time they have paired off this season.

The first clash turned out to be a disaster for the Wahtonka boys. Heppner bumped the Eagles off in the opening round of the Mid-Columbia tournament at Sherman County, by a 64-45 margin. The Eagles went on to win the consolation bracket.

Russ Kilkenny was the big gun for the night with 26 points, while Bill McLeod was second with 15 counters. Bruce Wilkie was high for Wahtonka with 10 points, which was matched by Heppner's Dave Hall.

Both the Eagles and the Mustangs have been dumped by the Pilot Rock squad in league play. Heppner was downed by a close margin of three points. It was 70-73 at the close of the contest. The Wahtonka bunch was destroyed by the Rockets Friday, 93-68.

On Saturday, January 27, the Condon Blue Devils come to Heppner for the second and last clash for these teams. The first game, played at Condon, December 15, left the Condon club with a 16-point advantage, 49-65.

High point honors went to Jamie Grabenhorst with 34 pointers, only two of which came from the charity stripe. Gary Kemp was high for Heppner with 15 points.

Condon has since proved to be a tough club, if it wasn't established by this earlier game, and the Mustangs know their work is cut out for them Saturday night.

County Publishes Budget Addition

Revenue coming to the county road department above that anticipated for the year has caused the county court to publish a small supplementary budget in this week's Gazette-Times (page 6), and hearing on the budget has been set for the courthouse at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 19.

The state attorney-general has ruled that justice of the peace fines which are allocated to the county from traffic offenses must go to the county's general road fund, rather than the general fund. These are shown in the supplementary budget as increasing the road fund resources by \$5,521.

In addition, the county road department has received some \$15,104 in revenue that was not anticipated from sales of gravel, oiling jobs, work done for the school district and others. The county received \$6,000 from Pacific Gas Transmission company in connection with road work for the new gas compressor station.

The supplementary budget thus is to show \$20,625 additional receipts in the general road fund and proposes \$20,625 in expenditures.

Since all the revenue is from sources other than taxes, it will not raise the current year's county budget above the 6% limitation, and therefore is not subject to vote of the people.

County Judge Paul Jones said that it is proposed to replace three trucks with the funds, and to make a payment on a tractor. An additional amount is included for repairs.

Any interested person is welcome to attend the hearing on February 19 to ask questions or to speak for or against the supplementary budget.

He said that the 1966-67 budget was overexpended in 41 of 86 categories and that the 1967-68 budget was not increased to cover all the categories in which a deficit existed.

New System Devised
"To insure that we do not encounter the same problems again, we have initiated a new accounting system whereby we are able to keep an up to date accounting of all funds expended and a day by day balance of funds remaining in each budget category," he said.

Daniels said that this year the system is trying to under-expend its budget by \$20,000 "in order to start even."

However, prospects for this are not too bright. Unexpected demands have been keeping pressure on the budget. Later Tuesday night, Principal Alan Martin of the Heppner Elementary school presented estimates that repairs to the junior high gym would cost \$4,473. Ceiling plaster had to be removed after some of it fell in the auditorium.

The board took no action on the matter because of the shortage of funds, and the principal said that the auditorium portion of the building will be closed. Without a fire resistant covering over the exposed wooden lath, the building does not meet state fire code. Some remaining bits of plaster also present a hazard from the possibility of falling, he said. Junior high basketball games will be played at the high school gymnasium.

Receipts to Be Down
Daniels compared resources of the current budget, point by point, with those expected for the coming year. He showed the areas where receipts were below those anticipated. In the 1967-68 budget, the resources other than taxes were listed at \$332,590. In the proposed budget for 1968-69, the figure is set at \$273,102.

He deferred presenting any detailed analysis of 1968-69 expenditures until the next budget meeting because action had not been taken on proposals for a teacher salary increase at the time of this message. This was done after the budget meeting when the board agreed to a \$6000 base salary for teachers.

Elden Padberg of Lexington was elected chairman of the budget committee and Harley Young of Heppner was elected secretary.

Election May 6
Date of May 6 was set as time of the election on the budget, coinciding with the school election. This date, later than usual, was decided upon to save the expense of a special election.

Ensuing meetings of the budget committee are scheduled for February 13 at 7:30 at the lone high school and on February 27 at the A. C. Houghton school. Final budget meeting will be March 5 at Heppner High school.

Publication of the budget is tentatively set for March 20 and March 27, and the public hearing for April 9 at 7:30 in the school district office.

All members of the school board are members of the budget committee, together with the lay members, Chairman Padberg of Lexington; Secretary Young of Heppner; Clinton McQuarrie, Heppner; Mrs. Warren McCoy, Irigoin; Frank Anderson of Heppner; Bob Seard of Boardman; and Bob Rietmann of Ione.

(Continued on page 8)

Saturday's 70 Ties Warm Record

Saturday's maximum temperature of 70 degrees, coming during a springlike week, tied the high temperature record for this time of year, according to Don Gilliam, weather observer.

Fifty years ago—on January 1, 1918—a 70-degree temperature was recorded on the New Year's day, but that stands alone until the same mark was hit this January 20.

The warm weather, with maximums of the week ranging from 45 to the 70 and minimums ranging from 32 to 52, is taking a toll on the snow at Arbuckle Mountain. In mid-week it seemed dubious that conditions there would permit skiing this week-end.

Official report for the week of January 17 through January 23 as compiled by Gilliam, is as follows:

| | Hi | Low | Prec. |
|-----------|----|-----|-------|
| Wednesday | 45 | 32 | — |
| Thursday | 55 | 42 | — |
| Friday | 69 | 52 | — |
| Saturday | 59 | 43 | .05 |
| Sunday | 48 | 33 | — |
| Tuesday | 47 | 32 | — |

Premature Spring Closes Arbuckle

Premature spring has resulted in the closure of Arbuckle Mountain ski course for the coming week-end. Ed Dick of the directors announced Wednesday morning.

Warm temperature has melted snow and made it unsatisfactory for skiing, he said. It is hoped that more snow will come soon to make it possible to reopen for ensuing week-ends.