

Kindergarten program in school budget

At Monday night's meeting the Morrow County school board placed the kindergarten program in its proposed budget for 1974-75 school year. Jack Sumner, school board member, made the motion that funds for the kindergarten program, which include only the operating cost, be placed in the budget. The operating cost is \$11,803 with the state providing an additional \$9,000.

The board rejected the request to include transportation costs in the kindergarten program. Supt. Ron Daniels stated, "It would cost the district \$9,933 to transport school age kindergarten children home; however, it wouldn't cost the district any additional money to pick up the kindergarten children on the normal morning bus routes." Dennis Doherty, represent-

ing the Neighborhood Center and Senior Citizens, brought up the point that senior citizens are being left out of programs which they could benefit by; instead, the younger children are being given additional education opportunities. A public school budget meeting will be held Jan. 22 and Jan. 29 for review and discussion of the kindergarten budget.

The tentative school budget for 1974-75 was announced by Daniels. The new budget will include a 13-15 per cent increase over this year's budget. The increased proposed is \$240,000, which brings the new total budget to \$1,913,610. "This proposed budget is subject to change pending the decision on teachers' salaries and the gas and oil situation," he said. In old business, the board approved the easement requested by Columbia Basin Electric Company to lay a power cable near the bus shed area. The board, however, made a stipulation that if the district decides to build on the property the cable line would have to be relocated at Columbia Basin expense. The transportation committee sent to the board their recommendation for replacement buses. The committee asked for three vehicles to be included in the 1974-75 budget; one 66-passenger bus, one 30-passenger and one 12-passenger panel. The total cost for the vehicles is \$27,500. The committee also asked the board to consider replacing the 1948 diesel bus which is used for athletic events and field trips. "The bus we are using has been having mechanical problems weekly," stated the superintendent. The board decided to investigate the possibilities of leasing a used diesel bus for one year until the gas-diesel situation is settled. A request was approved for an additional work week in June for the secretary at the lone schools. Her work will include checking supplies and preparing the student handbook.

In new business, the agreement between the classified employees of the school district and the school board was announced. The board adopted a 3-year agreement starting July 1, 1974, for increase in salaries for secretaries, custodians, cooks and bus drivers. The first year salary increase includes: a 20 cent per hour increase for cooks, 40 cent increase per hour for secretaries, 15 cent increase per hour for teachers aides, 40 cent increase per hour for custodians, \$10 a month increased for bus drivers or route 2, 25 cent hour increase for activity and field bus drivers, and a 15 cent increase per hour for laundry personnel. "The second year the salaries for these employees will be based on the cost of living," said Daniels. In addition to the salaries the board approved an additional medical increase of \$3 which brings the total to \$12.50.

The board approved the request to hire a teachers aide to work in the study halls to relieve teachers. This will permit teachers to teach additional classes. In addition the board decided to hire an additional staff member at either Irrigon Elementary School or Riverside Junior High. "We are experiencing an overcrowded situation right now in the 4th grade at the elementary school," Daniels said. School board members gave several suggestions to the gasoline situation report made by Daniels. Jack Sumner suggested the board might consider eliminating a bus run one morning one week and one afternoon the following week. This would save approximately 160 gallons each week. A request to work athletic practices into the regular school day was made by Don McElligott. Gary Peck suggested purchasing gas from the open market when the district couldn't provide any more fuel. Daniels announced the gas and oil situation will be discussed at a special school board meeting Jan. 7. He also announced the report by the vocational study team headed by Garth Davis, regional co-ordinator for Umatilla and Morrow Counties in career education. The team did a study last

month in the three Morrow County high schools. As a result of the study, each of the high school's principals and career education teachers will work with Davis in planning classes designed to fit student's career needs.

In other business, the board reviewed the unemployment insurance law which requires each school district to provide some kind of insurance. The board renewed a three-year contract for Daniels. At the conclusion of the

meeting, Dr. Wolff announced that the mediator has failed to bring the teachers and school board members in agreement. The board asked the mediator to return next month to try again to reach an agreement between the two parties.

Having a tree doesn't mean it's Christmas. So if you don't get a tree this year, have a merry Christmas anyway!

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DRAWING BY STEVE JOHNSON

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Chamber hears choir

The Heppner High School Choir entertained the Chamber of Commerce at the regular Monday meeting at the Elks Club. The Choir under the direction of Bob Jespersen, was composed of the following students: Robyn Riddle, Juanita Wilson, Millie Yocom, Donna Bellamy, Matt Greenup, Dena Struthers, Shannon Kelly, Deby Smith, Dale Arrington and Kristi Ilagewood. The choir sang "Monday, Monday," "If I were a Carpenter," "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Christmas Gloria," "Carol of the Bells" and "Monotone Angel."

Yuletide Joy

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Princess tryouts Dec. 30

Tryouts for Morrow County Rodeo Princesses will be held at the fairgrounds, Dec. 30, at 1:30 p.m., according to Jim Rogers, vice-president and publicity director for the Morrow County Rodeo. To be eligible for the tryouts a girl must be a resident of Morrow County, at least 16 years of age as of Jan. 1, 1974 and be at least a junior in high school. Aspiring princesses may use any horse or saddle for the tryouts. They should wear jeans and a hat, and bring a coat because of the cold weather. Four princesses will be chosen on the basis of their riding ability, personality and poise. This year there will be five judges from the rodeo board; plus one judge each from the Lexington area, Boardman, Ione and the Wranglers.

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Please Help Santa

—Sketch by Dianne Holland

A Happy Holiday Season to all our friends and customers who have been so wonderful to us during the year. The management and employees of CENTRAL MARKET join in wishing all of you the Blessings of Christmas.

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