

What's going on with co-curricular activities?

By Chuck Starr, superintendent of Morrow County Schools

I have read two recent newspaper articles that have me confused about your budget plans for cocurricular activities in Morrow County Schools for 1995-96. The Hermiton Herald says, "Athletics and other cocurricular activities will remain unharmed by budget cuts." The Heppner Gazette says, "there will be enough money to fund sports and other cocurricular activities next fall." What's going on here? I thought you were going to cut all cocurricular activities and 11 teaching positions, even if the bond issue passed.

I will do my best to explain my recommendations to the

Budget Committee, and answer your question with the following information:

I am recommending that all cocurricular activities be removed from the general fund budget and placed in a separate fund, called Fund 710, Cocurricular Fund. The total budget for those activities in 1995-96 is proposed at just over \$440,000. I fully expect that amount to be provided from outside sources, such as the new Recreation District.

Since we need to know whether "up front funding" will be available for the start up of fall activities before the end of this school year, I have proposed a budgeted general fund transfer of \$140,000 that can be

used to start up the fall activities, if necessary. If sufficient funds are raised to cover the start up of fall activities, that \$140,000 will not be transferred to fund 710, and it will not be spent in 1995-96.

If some, or all of the \$140,000 is needed to cover the start up of fall activities, I fully expect the Recreation District to reimburse the district, and restore the \$140,000.

We need the \$140,000 to be available as a start up "loan" only. It must be restored through donations and/or a recreation levy.

The \$140,000 should be carried over to 1996-97 to reduce our expected staff reduction that year. It will help save 3.5 teaching positions in 1996-97.

Even if the \$140,000 was intended to be spent without reimbursement (which I do not recommend), the 1995-96 Cocurricular fund will need \$300,000 in additional resources to balance the \$440,000 budget. Athletics and cocurricular programs are definitely not "unharmed" in this budget.

Finally, I want to say that we will cut 11 licensed positions in the 1995-96 budget, none of which are elementary classroom positions. I have also recommended that we move to a full-time kindergarten program that will require the addition of 1.5 elementary classroom teachers. The net result of this proposal will be a reduction of 9.5 licensed positions in 1995-96.

Doherty named university senator

Brian Doherty of Lexington was elected a senator of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. He will serve during the 1995-96 academic year, representing the agriculture college.

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Antibiotic Used For Rheumatoid Arthritis

The primary treatment of rheumatoid arthritis has been with the nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These medicines provide relief of joint pain and inflammation. Second line medicines sometimes used when the NSAIDs are not effective include antimalarial medicines, gold therapy, and other drugs. Results of two recent studies may change the way arthritis is treated in the future.

According to results of the Minocycline in Rheumatoid Arthritis (MIRA) study reported recently in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the tetracycline antibiotics may become the preferred method of treating rheumatoid arthritis. Over 200 patients were treated for 48 weeks with either minocycline (a tetracycline antibiotic) or a placebo. Significant reduction in swollen joints and joint tenderness was observed in those receiving the antibiotic. During the last 24 weeks of the study minocycline-treated patients improved, while there was no improvement in the placebo group. Dizziness was the only important side effect noted in the antibiotic group.

There are two possible explanations given as to minocycline's effectiveness. One is that rheumatoid arthritis may be caused by *Mycoplasma* or another bacteria. It also suggested that the tetracyclines may have an anti-inflammatory effect themselves.

School board approves teacher layoff

The Morrow County School Board Monday night, April 10, at their regular meeting approved layoffs of nine teachers for the 1995-96 year to cope with district budget cuts. The board had originally planned to layoff 11 teachers, but one teacher resigned and one other was reassigned.

Teachers scheduled to be terminated are as follows: first year probationary teachers-Carol Knudsen, art at A.C. Houghton Elementary and Sam Boardman Elementary; Pat Sherrett, music at ACH and Columbia Junior High; Tom Logan, science at Lone; Joe Bell, language arts at Riverside High School; John Moody, language arts at CJH; Laurel Timm, home ec at RHS; and Terri Stiefel, elementary at ACH; temporary teachers-Martin Schratzenholzer, math/science at RHS; and Trina Hellberg, social studies at CJH.

In other business the board: -did not approve a motion to change kindergarten from all-day every other day to all-day every day. The all-day every day program was implemented as a pilot program at A.C. Houghton the past year and was recommended by principals as an academic benefit to the students.

Half-day every day kindergarten is not possible because state law specifies that school districts provide transportation to and from school and Morrow County is unable to provide additional transportation funding. Board member John Rietmann abstained from voting, saying that the move was "financial" adding that he still supports a five-day school week. Board chair Marcia Kemp and members Gary Frederickson and Molly Rill voted for the change to all-day every day kindergarten. Board members Bill Doherty, Scott Bauska and Dwayne Carroll were absent. A motion must be supported by at least four board members to pass: The meeting was not adjourned, but recessed until the district budget meeting Monday, April 17, at Riverside High School, at which time board members say they will bring up the issue again.

-learned from district business manager Shirley Landauer that the bonds from the March 28 bond election have already been sold. Landauer said that the district received a favorable interest rate at 5.125 percent and added that the premium sales will be enough to cover the cost of issuance. Landauer said that the life of the bond was able to be shortened from 15 to 12 years, because the interest rate was so good. The tax rate will range from \$1.94 to \$1.42 per thousand, lower than the \$1.96 initially thought.

-heard a report on the dropout rates of Heppner, Lone and Riverside high schools. Heppner High School had two

dropouts, for a dropout rate of 1.3 percent; Lone had no dropouts for 1993-94; Riverside had 40 dropouts for a dropout rate of 10.05 percent. The state average is 6.63. Riverside High School assistant principal Kevin Fry said that some of the students who are dropping out are male, 16 or older and enrolling in U.S. schools for the first time. He said it is especially difficult for these students who may be leaving school to work. However, he said that Riverside is seeking these students and that the special programs will help the students as well as the community. "We want to keep this program. We need to be doing this," said Fry. "We're greeting them with open arms. We want them here."

-approved a change of 1996 spring break from the third week in March to the fourth week to coincide with other high schools and colleges in the state;

-approved resignations of Benn Houk from his position of assistant track coach at Columbia Junior High, effective March 23;

-approved employment of Lola Malmberg as assistant cook at Sam Boardman Elementary, three hours a day, replacing Barbara Broadbent; Cindy Turner, as Chapter I educational assistant at A.C. Houghton Elementary, replacing Krysta Marlow; Krysta Marlow, temporary extra duty contract to serve as assistant track coach for this season only, replacing Benn Houk; Betty Bergstrom and Rudy Bergstrom, as bus drivers in the south end, resulting from resignations of Anne Bedortha and Nancy Ekstrom;

-appointed Dale Baker to fill Boardman/Irrigon Advisory Committee position no. 3, Boardman, through June 30; -accepted results from March 28 bond measure election: 1,704 yes to 1,114 no;

-declared the winners of board and advisory positions: Board-zone 3, John Rietmann; zone 4, Russell Morgan; zone 5, Scott Johnson; Heppner/Lexington Advisory Board-position 1, Sheridan Tarnasky; 3, Marcia Kemp (write in); 5, Rollie Marshall; Lone/Lexington Advisory Board-position 1, Anita Orem; 5, George Miller; Boardman/Irrigon Advisory Board-position 2 Julie Weikel; 3, Kathy Neal (write in); 5, Marilyn Acoc. Kemp will be off the school board as of June 30 as a result of state mandated redistricting based on population. She and Dwayne Carroll of Irrigon reside in the same district and her term expires before his;

-accepted the following donations: Apple IIe computer at Sam Boardman Elementary from Karen Pettigrew; \$300 toward scoreboard at A.C. Houghton from Lamb Weston; donations toward Sam Boardman Elementary scoreboard \$300 from Lamb Weston, \$300 from Columbia Youth Basketball, \$50 from Ratheon, \$50, Oregon Potato, \$25, Boardman Farms, \$20 Lindsay Ranch;

-heard of the filing of an unfair labor practice complaint against the district;

-heard curriculum reports from the lone language arts teacher and lone K-2 teachers on their programs;

-approved a request from the lone senior class for a senior trip to Lincoln City

-learned of the following upcoming events: April 12, elementary math contest, Lone High School, 6:30 p.m.; April 17 budget committee meeting, RHS, 7:30 p.m.; April 19 licensed negotiations, district office, 7:30 p.m.; April 24, Creating the Future Communication group meeting, HHS, 7 p.m.; May 1 budget committee meeting, district office, 7:30 p.m.; May 8 next regular board meeting, district office, 7:30 p.m.

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