Inflation, Increased Pupils Major Factors for Cost Rise

Inflation, increased enrollments and increases in teachers salaries have been listed as major factors increasing the average cost per pupil on the basis of average daily membership in the Medford school district.

A study of the average cost per pupil in the district, and in other districts in Oregon, was made by the Oregon state division of the American Association of University Women with the local chapter coordinating Medford's study.

The average cost per pupil in the Medford district this year is $429, based on the average daily membership. This is an increase of $32.50 per child over the per pupil cost of $396.50 during the school year 1958-59, the study showed.

Compared Favorably

Although comparative figures from other Oregon school districts for the present year were not available, per pupil costs in Medford compared favorably with other districts last year. Lowest per pupil cost, according to the study, was $311.92 in Ashland, and the highest was $513.20 in Klamath County high during the year 1958-59.

In the 10 years preceding the 1958-59 year, Medford's cost per pupil rose $180.95, a figure not out of line with other districts cooperating in the study.

In McMinnville, for example, per pupil costs rose $38.90 in 10 years to the 1958-59 cost of $372.64, and in Roseburg, the cost rose $2?? in 10 years to 1958-59's cost of $380.97 per pupil.

Largest Share of Cost

Instruction takes the largest share of the per pupil cost in all districts reporting in the 1958-59 survey by the AAUW. The trend did not change during the present year with 68.5 per cent going for instruction in the Medford district.

Other functions of the district take between .005 and 7.9 per cent of the per pupil cost. They include operation, 7.9 per cent; maintenance and repairs, 5.9 per cent; fixed charges, 5.4 per cent; capital outlay, 5.2 per cent; auxiliary, 4.4 per cent; administration, 2.2 per cent; emergency, .4 per cent; and debt service, .005 per cent.

The increase in per pupil cost in the Medford district as is probably true in most other districts in the state, is because of inflation, increased enrollments and teacher salary increases.

In addition to those three major factors, there are other factors which have contributed to the increase to a lesser degree.

Other Factors

They are, and the degree to which they have affected the increase: new programs (gifted child, mentally retarded, handicapped children), very little; expansion of existing programs, very little; change in class sizes, none larger; improvement in quality of teachers (special training, better trained teachers, experience), some; increase in contributions to retirement programs, minor; increased expenditures for instructional materials and supplies, minor; other factors, very little.

Revenue in the Medford district is derived from four main sources, according to information furnished by the AAUW by Dr. Leonard B. Mayfield, superintendent, and other administrative personnel.

Federal aid totals about 1.5 per cent of the district's revenue, state aid totals about 30.1 per cent, county school fund about 6.1 per cent (based on $10 per census child), and the local district levy totals about 61.7 per cent of the total revenue. An additional .6 per cent comes from miscellaneous sources.

Information compiled in the AAUW study will be prepared in booklet form, local AAUW representatives said, and copies will be presented to legislators.

One of the reasons for the study of school finances and the cost per pupil was to help the AAUW determine what stand it will take concerning federal aid, local organization officials said.

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Sentence Imposition Suspended in Court

Jerry Vernon Barrett, 27, of 2?3 Alder st., Central Point, was given a suspended imposition of sentence for three years when he appeared in Jackson county circuit court Thursday.

Barrett had pleaded guilty to burglary not in a dwelling. He was charged with breaking into a lumber company in Central Point March 6.

Conditions of his probation are that he refrain from drinking liquor, stay away from taverns and make restitution as required by his parole officer.

Raymond Richard Koch, Central Point, also was given a three-year suspended imposition of sentence. Koch pleaded guilty yesterday to charges of giving a bad check to a service station for $76.87 March 29.

Richard Courtright, Medford lawyer, was appointed attorney for Lyle Edward Lunceford, Medford, who is charged with burglary not in a dwelling. Lunceford is charged with entering an equipment company here May 5.

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