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Aid-fund use could drop school levy by 9 points

By R. R. Faszczewski
The use of \$293,565 in minimum state aid to the Clark school district will enable the Board of Education to give taxpayers an approximate 9.25 point decrease in the local tax rate of school purposes for 1982-1983, according to Mrs. Thelma Purdy, the president of the elementary school body.

Mrs. Purdy's comments were made before the Board voted Jan. 12 to adopt a tentative 1982-1983 budget of \$5,614,950.30. Of the total, township voters will see ballots at the April School Board Election on \$4,448,720 in local tax levies in support of current expense, a decrease of \$267,611 from last year's current-expense tax levy, if the budget is finally adopted as is after approval by the county superintendent of schools.

Once again, there will be no figure for capital outlay on the ballot. A member of the Clark Taxpayers Coalition, John Schroek, asked whether the 9.25-point reduction spoken of by Mrs. Purdy accounted for a \$300,000 "loan" the township gave to the school body last year, when it looked like the minimum aid would not be approved by the State Legislature. The school body president replied the Board had not anticipated the state aid in its budget last year, but the township had forwarded to it a certified amount to be used in the school system, not a "loan."

Township councilmen have threatened to withhold the \$300,000 from the money they forward out of tax funds for school purposes this year, because they wish to see it given back to taxpayers in the form of a rebate. In response to another question, Mrs. Purdy said her board is anticipating state aid for the 1982-1983 school year. The amount shown in the tentative budget for equalization of minimum aid is \$314,113 for 1982-1983. Besides the amount for current expense to be raised by taxes, there are several other items in the temporary tab for that purpose, which bring that total to \$5,353,179 for the next school year.

Also included in the tentative budget is \$261,771.50 for debt service. This amount is not voted on by township residents. A question arose about the per-pupil cost of running the school system for 1982-1983. Although Board Secretary Philip A. Miller said last year's cost was \$3,439 per pupil, he said figures for 1982-1983 would not be available until November of this year, because the state calculates that total according to a specific formula, which is the same for all school systems. Some Board members and residents asked why the estimated 1,266 pupils could not be divided into the total budget figure to get the per-pupil cost.

Both Mr. Miller and Mrs. Purdy replied transportation, state aid and other figures are included in the rather-complicated state formula, and the cost could not be arrived at by the simple division method proposed by residents and some Board members. Two Board members, Dr. Peter Cumiskey and James E. Kehoe, voted against the tentative budget, because, they said, the budget was based on an inefficient school system not properly re-organized when the Board took a vote on that matter in November of last year.

Street-hockey program okayed; safety assured

By R. R. Faszczewski
An after-school street hockey recreation program which was voted down last month because of questions about safety and scheduling was approved unanimously by the Clark Board of Education Jan. 12 after the questions were answered by the superintendent of schools and high school students who said they would be involved in the program. According to Dr. John T. Farinella, the superintendent of schools, the program, which began on Tuesday and is to continue every Tuesday until March 23, will not conflict with any other program, because of its use of the Carl H. Kumpf School gymnasium. One of the students who will be involved in the program, Vito Gagliardi, explained it will be strictly an internal program, and will not involve league play.

Other players added the type of hockey played is not as rough as professional ice hockey, and has not resulted in injuries in the past when it has been tried. In other action, the Board accepted the annual food-service audit report conducted by George W. Amann of Stefany and Co. of Irvington. No recommendations were made for changes in the accounting system. Approved the appropriation of a maximum of \$3,000 from the food service fund balance for the current school year to cover operational losses in order to avoid a lunch-price increase for the balance of the 1981-1982 school year. Board secretary, Philip A. Miller, warned, however, a change in federal subsidies will make an increase almost impossible to avoid next year.

Hired Fred Muraviev to conduct intramurals which took place at Frank K. Hehnly School from Sept. 22 to Dec. 15 of last year. Approved a leave of absence without pay for Mrs. Nancy Kushner, physical education teacher, from Monday, April 26, to Wednesday, June 30, contingent on receipt of a doctor's note. Accepted the resignation of Ronald Jensen, maintenance man, effective Dec. 31 of last year. Hired William McMahon as a custodian at an annual salary of \$12,000, effective Jan. 15 to June 30 of this year, and approved an annual stipend of \$200 for Mr. McMahon for his having obtained a boiler license.



ON HER BEAT - Miss Patricia Cerra, an eighth-grade student at the Charles H. Brewer School in Clark, was named the Co-Ed Magazine correspondent for the 1981-1982 school year. Miss Cerra was selected by her home economics teacher, Mrs. Lill Liskovec, for leadership qualities and enthusiasm for home economics. Co-Ed, a national publication of Scholastic Inc., focuses on personal development and consumer awareness in addition to current trends in fashion, foods, beauty and interior design. Her role as correspondent will be to inform the editors of the magazine about activities in her school.

Board eliminates helping teacher

By R. R. Faszczewski
The elimination of a position which has been in the Clark school system for 18 years, that of helping teacher, was approved Jan. 12 by a unanimous vote of the Clark Board of Education. Replying to a question from a resident, Mrs. Anita Altman, Mrs. Thelma Purdy, Board president, said although the person who presently holds the position will be kept on in another capacity in the school system, the duties of the abolished position will be spread out among many staff members. A Board member, Dr. Peter Cumiskey, noted about \$100,000 in budget cuts he had suggested last year had been completed with the elimination of the helping teacher, a post without harming education.

In other action, the Board: Accepted the resignation of Barbara Muzik as an aide in the Tuesday Volleyball Program at Charles H. Brewer School. Hired William Makoski as head teacher and Dawn Pierri and John Foley as aides in various recreation programs for this school year. Employed six sports officials for the 1981-1982 school year. Transferred \$2,495 from surplus to permit the purchase of a copier for Valley Road School. Approved advanced study grants for two staff members. Hired three teachers, a custodian, four recreation head teachers and four aides for the 1981-1982 substitute list. Employed Fred Walck as a maintenance man at an annual salary of \$12,300, effective Jan. 15 to Wednesday, June 30, of this year.



STARTING YEAR RIGHT - At the regular December meeting of the Clark First Aid Squad, two officers of Clark Unico presented the squad with a donation in wishing the unit well for the New Year. Assisting in the presentation, left, is attorney Jeffrey Angelo, the vice president of Clark Unico, accepting the donation is Jack Quinn, center, the president of the squad and offering the donation is George Abruzzo, the secretary of Clark Unico, an Italian service organization.

Woman Council president no stranger to government

By R. R. Faszczewski
The first woman to hold the post of president of Clark's Township Council this week cited her love of people and wide involvement in civic and business affairs in outlining her qualifications for the post to The Clark Patriot. Mrs. Virginia Apelian, who was elected as the representative of the First Ward on the Council in 1978, served first in township government in 1976, when she was appointed to fill an unexpired term as councilwoman-at-large. She was no stranger to government before that, however, having served as a member of the Mayor's Committee on Drug Abuse, where she gave talks on drug abuse in the Clark school system, and raised money individually by visiting and writing to big companies both within and outside of Clark.

During and after her first term on the Council, Mrs. Apelian was also an administrative aide to Assemblyman William Maguire, who recently completed his career in the lower house of the State Legislature as the representative of Clark and nine other communities. In that capacity she attended the New Jersey Assembly meetings every week, and attended programs for senior citizens in addition to visiting many state institutions, the councilwoman told The Clark Patriot. A member of the Clark Historical Society and of The Women's Guild of the Armenian Presbyterian Church, the official formed a senior citizens' group called "The Owls" in 1979 open to all the community's senior citizens, but meeting at Clark's Osceola Presbyterian Church. From 1979 to 1980 she was a member of the Clark Planning Board, and last year served as the chairwoman of the Governing Body's Legislative Committee, and the Council's liaison to the township's Public Library Board in addition to being a representative of the councilmen to the Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad and a member of the Council's Safety Committee. Presently employed with the United States Dept. of Defense in Springfield, she was an office manager for the Electronics Corp. of America in Springfield from 1979 to August of last year, when the company decided to move from the area. She also teaches a course entitled "Assertive Training" two nights a week at the Union County Regional Adult School at Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark to attorneys, teachers, supervisors of all types, college students and other adults. Mrs. Apelian was graduated from Douglass College of Rutgers University in New Brunswick with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and a minor in political science in June 1975. The 1980 co-ordinator of President Ronald Reagan's election campaign in Clark, she was the first woman president of the Clark Republican Club, a post she held for two years.



MOST ON MATS - The 11th Annual Charles H. Brewer School Wrestling Tournament of Clark was completed recently. Members of the school's Officials Club, who served as official timers, shown, left to right, in the first row, are: Steve Biss, Jack Giantassio and Brian Gackstetter. Participants, left to right, are: Second row, Tim Dunn; Chris Glover, Sean McGaha, Joe Latawicz, Peter Kuch and Jeff Barr; third row, Brad Steele, Chris Martino, Alex Duarte, Eugene Mosco and Brian Trippiedi. (Please see the story inside.)



TAKING THE REINS - Clark's first woman Township Council president, First Ward Councilwoman Mrs. Virginia Apelian, is shown, seated, after her election at the Governing Body's Jan. 1 re-organization meeting. Looking on, left to right, are her colleagues: Fourth Ward Councilman Peter M. Campana, Second Ward Councilwoman Mrs. Jean Anderson, Councilman-at-Large Fred Eckel, Joseph B. Pozniak and George A. Sangiuliano and Third Ward Councilman Donald W. Labella. (Please see another picture inside.)