

focus



Community Unit School District 220
"Excellence In Learning Through Caring Schools"

Vol. 9 No. 1

October 1987

K-8 Enrollment Up by 163

The District's ten schools opened their doors to 6,269 students last month. This total included a net increase of 119 students in Grades K-6 and 44 in Grades 7-8. The High School enrollment declined by 87. In addition, District pre-school programs enrolled 79 students for the 1987-88 school year.

"Our projections were on target," said Clyde W. Slocum, District 220 superintendent. "The growth in the Barrington area in terms of new homes being built and occupied has meant constantly increasing elementary school populations, especially in the attendance areas of Grove, Lines and North Barrington Schools."

At Lines this meant reclaiming the four classrooms in the school which have housed the Middle School foreign language department for the past five years. As a result, three mobile units were moved to the Middle School grounds, but according to Don Thompson, BMS principal, this doesn't solve the overall space problem.

"Our enrollment increased by 44 students this year," he said, "and we actually have one less classroom to work with. Even if you add more mobiles, it doesn't change the size of the gym or lunchroom, and these facilities are being stretched to their limits." The Middle School currently schedules three lunch periods, with over 300 students in each, to accommodate its enrollment. During some periods there are as many as 143 students in the school's main.

"When the weather gets bad, it's going to cause a real space crunch in the gym," Thompson added. Space within the building is also at a premium, with many



Barrington Middle School students head for classes in the three mobile units which have been added to the BMS campus.

teachers not only teaching in several different classrooms but also having to share office desks.

The 1987-88 District enrollment is well beyond the "most likely" projection of 5,975 students predicted by John Kasarda, consulting demographer to the District, in his 1986 report. In fact the enrollments at all levels are closer to his "maximum" projections, indicating residential development and immigration to the District have been greater than anticipated.

Important Budget Information Inside

Despite extensive cuts in budget requests, the Board of Education adopted a 1987-88 operational budget that shows a \$1 million deficit. That Board action was taken to retain the District's current student programs and services and to maintain the existing average class size of 23 throughout the school system. The Board and I believe that this deficit spending is warranted in order to maintain the quality of education that the community expects.

I urge you to acquaint yourself with the summary budget information contained in this issue since it briefly explains the sources of District revenues, the planned expenditures, the reasons for an 8.4 per cent budget increase and the growing plight of the District's finances.

*Clyde W. Slocum
 Superintendent of Schools*

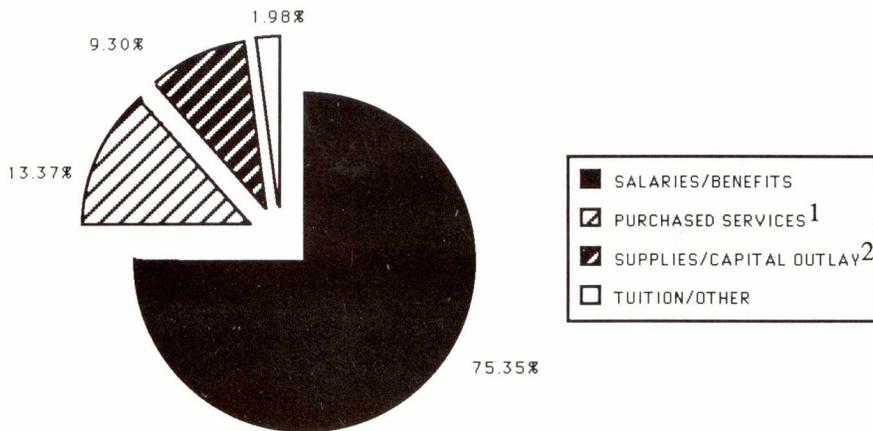
Barrington Council for Children with Learning Disabilities (BACLD) holds "College Night for the Learning Disabled Student," Wednesday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. in the High School Resource Center. Materials from colleges and universities which have programs and/or support services will be available, and representatives will be on hand to answer questions. As some programs have 2-3 year waiting lists, it is not too early for seventh and eighth grade students to become aware of what is available.

Kasarda was originally commissioned to study District 220 demographics in 1981. The 1986 update was used in the redrawing of the elementary attendance areas which resulted in the reopening of Hickory Hill Middle School as Woodland Elementary. In implementing the District's 5-year Strategic Plan, the Board of Education has employed Kasarda to update his projected student population data in order to help determine adequate future housing for the additional enrollment.

1987-88 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

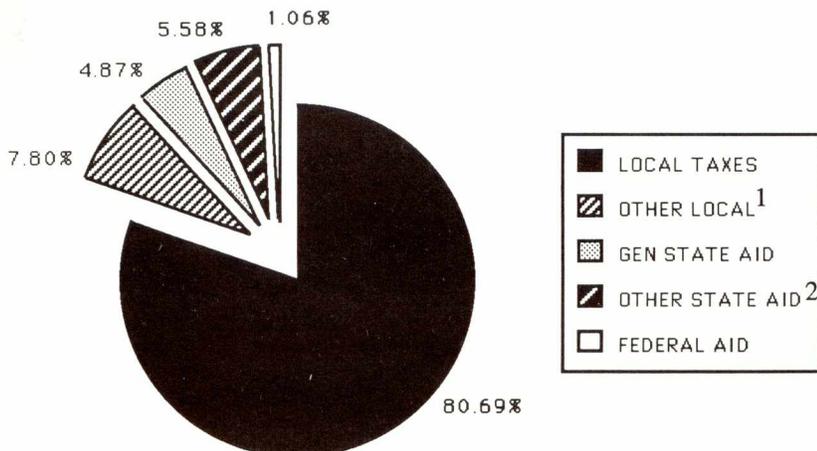
The General Fund is composed of four separate funds: Education, Building Maintenance, Transportation and Pension.

EXPENDITURES



- 1-Purchased Services include transportation, utilities and food service.
2-Capital Outlay includes purchases of equipment and furniture.

REVENUE



- 1-Other Local Revenue includes student fees, food service sales, tuition and interest earnings.
2-Other State Aid includes funds received for special education, vocational education, reading improvement and gifted programs as well as grant monies and reimbursement for transportation costs.

1987-88 District B

Following a public hearing on August 24, the District 220 Board of Education approved an expenditure budget for the 1987-88 school year of \$31,696,542 to provide for the 6,269 students of the District. This translates to a total of \$28,549,326 in the General Fund and \$3,147,216 in the Capital Fund.

The General Fund budget provides for the day-to-day operation of the District and includes all expenses related to educating the student population as well as building maintenance and transportation of students. The \$28.5 million figure represents a budget to budget increase of 8.4 per cent in General Fund expenditures over 1986-87.

Increases in Budget

Approximately 5.1 per cent of this increase is the result of salary adjustments for certified, classified and administrative personnel; 3.1 per cent is due to higher District student enrollment plus the cost of furniture, equipment and staffing for the full reopening of Woodland School. The District closed Woodland (formerly Hickory Hill Middle School) in 1982 due to declining enrollment. It was partially reopened last year to house the District's preschool programs as well as one Kindergarten class. The refurbishing program was completed last month when Woodland opened its doors to 297 students in Grades K-6 as well as 79 students enrolled in preschool classes.

Of the 16 new certified staff positions approved by the Board of Education, approximately half were assigned to Woodland. In addition, a total of 5.5 classified positions, which include secretary, custodian and teacher aides, were added to fill out the Woodland staff.

Declining State Aid

At the same time that expenditures directly attributable to rising enrollment are increasing, state aid to District 220 is decreasing.

Cuts in state aid for special education and reimbursement for student transportation costs will mean a loss to District 220 of approximately \$250,000 in 1987-88.

General Fund Components

The Education Fund, which forms the largest portion of the General Fund expenditure budget, includes all items which have a direct bearing on the education of

Budget in Review

District 220 students such as salaries, classroom supplies, contracted services and equipment.

The Building Maintenance Fund covers the personnel, supplies and services required to maintain the buildings but does not include any major capital projects.

The Transportation Fund covers the cost of transporting students to and from school as well as co-curricular activities and field trips.

The Pension Fund includes payments for classified personnel retirement, Social Security and Medicare.

Working Cash Fund

District 220 also maintains a Working Cash Fund to provide loans to the General Fund (Education, Building Maintenance, Transportation) so that the use of tax anticipation notes can be minimized.

During the year monies borrowed from the Working Cash Fund enable the District to meet its current expenses. However at the close of the fiscal year, all such monies by law must be repaid to the Working Cash Fund. Following the payment at the close of 1986-87 the balance in this fund was \$4.4 million. (The deficit in the General Fund was \$2.4 million.)

For the year 1987-88 the Working Cash Fund balance will not be sufficient to meet the cash flow needs of the District, necessitating the issuance of tax anticipation notes (\$1.6 million) for the first time in over a decade.

Deficit Budget

The 1987-88 budget approved by the Board of Education projects a deficit of \$1 million in the General Fund. Added to previous years' deficits, the General Fund balance will show a total deficit of \$3.5 million as June 30, 1988. This deficit trend in the General Fund will increase if action is not taken to remedy the situation. (See graph.)

Capital Fund Components

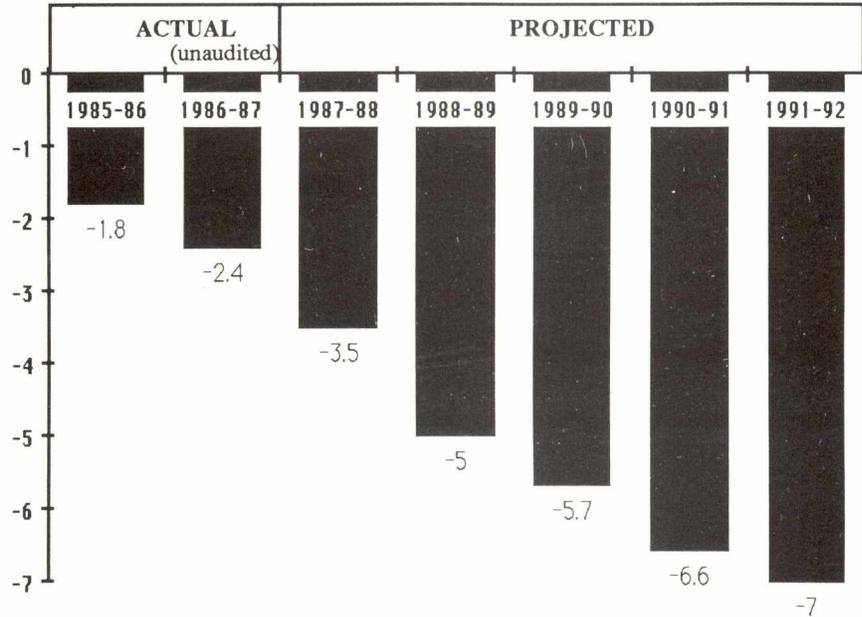
District 220's Capital Fund budget includes two separate funds: Bond & Interest and Site & Construction. The Capital Fund realized a major revenue increase due to the sale of Health and Life Safety funds in December 1986 as well as the sale of District-owned land on Harbor Road. Monies from the sale of property

(Continued on Page 4)

GENERAL FUND CUMULATIVE DEFICITS

(in millions of dollars)

The projected deficits were computed using the 1987-88 budget as a baseline with annual increases based on projected revenues and expenditures.



Note: The Board of Education has the option of closing out the Working Cash Fund into the Education Fund. This action would eliminate the projected deficit in the General Fund for 1987-88, but the General Fund is expected to return to a deficit position within the following year.

District 220 Cuts Expenses Through Budget Reductions, Cost Improvements

Stretching the dollar to meet a tight budget is an exercise familiar to everyone, and at District 220 it's an on-going challenge.

"We have worked hard to trim expenses from the 1987-88 budget wherever possible while still maintaining an adequate educational staff and sufficient materials for our students," Superintendent Clyde W. Slocum said.

Cuts of approximately \$550,000 in specific budget categories were made between the 1986-87 budget and the 1987-88 budget.

Employee benefit funding was reduced by \$120,000; legal and consultant services by \$73,500; and professional development activities for staff by \$13,900. A total of \$41,700 was cut from the amounts allocated to contingency accounts, dues/entry fees and Ed Red mem-

bership, and funds for student field trip transportation were reduced by \$7,500.

In addition, a number of needs which were identified by District budgetmakers within various departments were deferred.

District 220 also hopes to reduce expenses by a number of cost improvement practices. By purchasing the gasoline for buses used for student transportation, the District will save approximately \$7,500 in sales tax. According to Orvin Clark, assistant superintendent for business, an additional \$47,000 was cut from the 87-88 budget as a result of the bus company's phasing in of diesel powered buses which provide additional fuel economy.

Another policy, adopted by the District last spring, is direct purchase of natural gas from suppliers. According to Clark, the allocation for this expense was cut by \$57,900 to reflect this change.

H. S. English Department Receives National Award; Successful AP Exams Increase; SAT Scores Up

Barrington High School has been named a Center of Excellence by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). According to Dale Griffith, BHS English department head, three programs were considered by the NCTE: the District 220 K-12 Writing Program, the High School's Advanced Placement Program and its Interrelated Arts Program.

A visiting team from Loyola University reviewed all three and selected the Interrelated Arts Program. Team taught by the English and art departments, this course relates the study of art, music, theatre and architecture to the study of American literature.

A congratulatory letter from Sen. Paul Simon said in part: "It is encouraging to see Illinois schools commended for their excellent English and Language Arts programs. I hope other educators will contact you for the information on your program as a model for improving or creating their own programs."

The High School's Advanced Place-

ment (AP) Program has also proven increasingly successful. According to Edward De Young, BHS principal, students wrote 213 successful AP exams last spring, more than tripling the number in six years.

"The number of students taking these tests has increased from 60 in 1982 to 179 in 1987 while the percentage of those receiving passing grades has remained at about 2/3 of the papers written. That is a real tribute to the quality of teaching and the quality of the students' efforts."

BHS offers 15 AP courses in the areas of history, English, foreign language, math, computer science and art. College credit or advanced placement may be earned depending on the results of examinations administered by the College Entrance Examination Board.

The High School also recently received notification of SAT scores for the Class of 1988 which showed mean scores of 467 Verbal, 516 Math. With the verbal score up 17 points over the Class of 1987,

DeYoung said, "We are pleased with what we are seeing, but it will take more than one year before we are ready to say a trend has developed. We watched our AP program carefully for almost five years before we felt meaningful conclusions could be drawn."

Budget Review...

(Continued from Page 3)

have been reserved by the Board for the purchase of a school site or other major capital projects. This decision was supported by a Citizen Budget Advisory Committee.

The increased costs to the District in 1987-88 as a result of salary adjustments and enrollment increases coupled with declining state aid shows a projected deficit in the General Fund which will require a series of corrective actions over the coming months.

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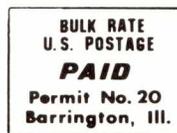
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High School Graphic Arts Production under the direction of Donn Hamm and Sean Denton.

FOCUS is distributed periodically to residents of Barrington Community Unit School District 220. Its objective is to keep citizens informed about the educational programs in the district and to strengthen the bond of understanding between the schools and community.



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School District Budget Report Inside