

**Tax revenue may or may not be received**

**Delphi schools forced to request tax advance**

By Kevin Schnepf  
Staff writer

What is true in gardening is true in life – when a weed is allowed to grow, it begins to choke the flowers around it. Similarly, when a government entity allows the weed of financial woes to surface, all entities it supports suffer also.

That concern was paramount to members of Delphi Community School Corporation Board of Trustees and local patrons during the board's Monday night meeting.

DCSC Superintendent Ralph Walker informed the board he received a copy of a letter addressed to the Carroll County Commissioners dated Aug. 23, 2007, from the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance which stated a dataset termed "Pay 2006 Auditor Data" originally due March 1, 2006, from the Carroll County auditor was not received.

The letter, signed by DLGF Commissioner Cheryl A.W. Musgrave, cautioned that until compliance is achieved the DLGF will not review or approve any county unit's 2008 budget or pending 2008 debt issues.

Board member Jim Garrison asked board attorney Barry Emerson for information regarding the issue. He informed the board county auditor Beth Myers said she sent the data,

but for some reason it was not received. He commented it was unclear why the board was dealing with an issue that was between the auditor and state.

"If the DLGF had any complaints, they should have addressed them to the auditor," he stated.

In a follow-up interview with the Comet Tuesday, Walker said he sent a letter after the Sept. 10 board meeting to Myers, with a carbon copy sent to the state, asking why the school constantly faces revenue shortfalls. He said he has not received an explanation from the auditor, but there could be a resolution to the matter that he is not yet aware of.

Walker said in light of bleak tax revenue information he had little choice but to ask the board to request rate bids for a \$2 million tax anticipation warrant, which was approved unanimously.

**Financial report**

Walker provided an overview of each fund's status. He explained figures were based on being two-thirds of the way through the fiscal year.

He said general fund expenditures were two-tenths of a percent over two-thirds spent, but felt comfortable with that number with only two payroll periods left.

"I think we're doing okay," he stated. "The question is will we see the tax revenues flow in that we've been promised."

Debt service was at 59 percent spent, with more payments due to be made from the fund.

Capital projects spending was reported to be approximately 95.5 percent. Walker said less than \$100,000 was left in the fund, with salaries and other payments yet to be made.

Transportation/operating fund was about two and two-thirds percent below for the period.

Walker noted about \$500,000 remained in the rainy day fund.

**Top facility priorities**

Each building administrator provided a synopsis of what they viewed as top priorities to be addressed during anticipated

future renovations. All including Walker, who spoke on behalf of the corporation office, said safety and security were of utmost importance. Secure entryways, cameras and buzz-in systems were discussed.

Administrators' top requests aside from security were:

- Carol Coon, CECC – intercom system and the addition of three kindergarten restrooms;

- Bill Shidler, elementary school – replace broken or leaking windows and doors, building exterior repairs, and HVAC training for maintenance personnel;

- Robert De La Rosa, middle school – add one classroom per grade level, preventative maintenance on the 22 year-old facility, a wireless computer system instead of adding outlets, and science labs;

- Barry Stone, high school – science wing renovation, technology improvements, mechanical updates including roof, restrooms and HVAC, and a multi-instructional facility to alleviate the burden of sharing the current gymnasium with the middle school; and

- Walker, administrative center – second work bay and a wash bay for the bus garage, a bus lift, and sidewalk and building repairs.

De La Rosa added that an athletic facility for the middle school would mean a great deal.

"If Christmas were to come early, an athletic facility on campus would be what Mr. De La Rosa would ask for," he said of himself. Currently the school shares the high school gym and utilizes the Monroe St. facility for activities and classes.

**Literacy program**

Walker's request to provide Breakthrough to Literacy materials to three classrooms at Camden Early Childhood Center was approved. Two kindergarten classes and a special education preschool class will be provided the program for \$52,492. Payment for the materials will be made from capital projects funds in January 2008.

**Middle school roof repairs**

Henshaw Roofing of Frank-

fort will repair leaks in the middle school roof over the library during fall break for \$7,700.

**Health insurance**

Walker said health insurance provider Arnett was bought out by United Healthcare. Walker said United proposed a 10-percent increase for next year's coverage, which the board approved.

The plan covers 17 classified staff and administrators within the district, and 30 overall including family members. Benefits under the United plan mirrored the former Arnett plan.

Walker said insurance rates typically rose more than 10-percent annually.

"I'm comfortable with the increase," Walker commented. "I'm surprised it's not higher."

**Library board appointment**

Joy Atkinson was approved for another term as the school's library board appointee. Her term will now expire in 2011.

**Other business**

Claims and payroll in the amount of \$1,216,035.72 were approved.

The board approved the purchase of a new Hobart mixer for the high school cafeteria at a cost of \$5,493.10 plus \$150 for a warranty.

Board member Jerry Sparks announced the high school soccer team won its first varsity meet.

High school band and poms will travel to Chicago from April 25 to 27, 2008.

High school class sponsors approved were: Senior class – Joyce Lawton and Norma Carpenter; Juniors – Amy Tonsoni and Michael Lewis; Sophomores – Amy Adams and Tina Johnson; Freshmen – Barb Broedel and Larinda Roswarski.

Employments were approved for Brooke Bailey, sixth grade At-Risk Aide, and Lorinda Roswarski, corporation bus driver.

A bus driver recognition breakfast was tentatively scheduled for Oct. 3 at 8:30 a.m. in the high school commons.

The next regular meeting will be Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. at the corporation office.

**Temporary signal placed on S.R. 18/U.S. 421/S.R. 39**

**Comet staff report**

As of Monday, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has placed temporary traffic lights on east and westbound State Road 18 (S.R. 18)/U.S. 421/State Road 39 (S.R. 39) for approximately one month.

The temporary signal assists two-way traffic take turns traveling on one open lane around the construction zone.

The work is part of the intersection improvement project that began in June and is converting the triangle intersection with merge lanes into a "T" intersection with a three-way stop at U.S. 421/S.R. 39 and S.R. 18/U.S. 421/S.R. 39. Designated left and right turn lanes will also be constructed during this project.

At the start of the Sept. 24 closure, east and westbound S.R. 18/U.S. 421/S.R. 39 traffic will share the existing eastbound lane while the westbound lane is torn out and reconstructed. Concrete barriers will be put between the travel lane and the construction zone. Once the westbound lane is reconstructed, traffic will be routed to share that lane as the eastbound lane is torn out and reconstructed.

Traffic is restricted to loads wider than 11 feet and directed to a posted detour. The speed limit has been reduced through the work zone from 50 mph to 45 mph. INDOT reminds drivers to consider the safety of road construction workers and to always drive with caution through highway work zones. The project is expected to be completed by November.

**Looking Back**



**Eva June Shank, age 9**

From the files of Hoosier Democrat, Delphi Journal, Journal-Citizen and Carroll County Comet. Photo provided by Carroll County Historical Museum.

**10 YEARS AGO**

Kristin Butcher, 15, was crowned queen of the Burlington Fall Festival. Hannah Brewster was crowned Little Princess and Jerome Hemersbach, Prince.

Newly organized in Carroll County is a publicly-supported philanthropic institution called the Carroll County Community Foundation, a fund of the Community Foundation of Hoard County, Inc.

The Community Foundation is a charitable foundation. Funds are raised to form endowments, serving the needs of donors, and are invested. The interest from investments is used to make grants for charitable purposes.

**25 YEARS AGO**

Delphi Mayor Wayne Van Sickle, a Democrat, has announced that he will submit his resignation to the city council.

Mayor Van Sickle has been Delphi mayor a total of 15 years.

Van Sickle will become associated with Butler, Faairman, Seufert, Inc. of Carmel, a consulting engineer firm.

More than 250,000 people are expected to attend the 30th annual Farm Progress Show, on 1120 acres owned by three host farmers – Adrian Foutch, Chris Helderle and Jack and Steve Meadors.

**50 YEARS AGO**

Ben Widner, a Delphi business man, who operates a barber shop in Yeoman, likes to have his place beautiful as much as possible, so he planted some wild cucumber seeds which vined nicely over the provided lattice

work but recently the vines have been acting strangely. While others report second growths of spring flowers at this season early (as nearly can be ascertained from the street at least) have been producing roses and other flowers as well as onions and assorted vegetables and this week blossomed full bloom with crepe paper flowers. Persons desiring seed for spring planting may address Mr. Widner at his Yeoman address, enclosing coin.

**75 YEARS AGO**

A grand opening has been announced by the Clawson Chevrolet Sales for next Saturday. A large crowd will probably be present for the excellent program which has been planned.

Free movies will be shown to the crowd by a Chevrolet factory representative.

Special music will be furnished on the program by the Carter Brothers, specialists in accordion and guitar music.

As the grand climax of the programs, a \$5 service agreement will be given away by the company. Everyone will also receive a coupon good for \$10 on the purchase of any Chevrolet car.

**100 YEARS AGO**

The Indianapolis Gold Medals, one of the fastest teams in the capital city, which was billed to cross bats with the Flora-Bringhurst Unions on the Bringhurst diamond last Tuesday, will be here for sure next Tuesday and the local lovers of base ball will be given a chance to see one of the best games of the season. The season is now fast drawing to a close, as good games are hard to secure, and those who wish to see the Unions in what may be the last game of the season will do well to attend the game.

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**80th birthday**

Kathleen Cleaver celebrated her 80th birthday Sept. 14 with family.

They enjoyed cake and an evening meal at Solly's in Reynolds.

Those present were Ralph and Carol Maxwell, Gary and Sue Cleaver, Michelle Dillman, Darren, Janelle and Ashlyn Pullen, Ryan and Diane Mitchell, Craig, Katie, Alex, Nick and Mitch Cleaver, Tony, Renee, Kolt, Kaleb and Kooper Kinsler, Tracy Cleaver and Finland foreign exchange student, Lora.

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