

Roseville Schools approves budget that includes concessions, school closures and pool shutdown

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By Gordon Wilczynski, Macomb Daily Staff Writer

The Roseville Community Schools Board of Education has approved a \$52 million budget that includes concessions made by 800 employees, along with the closure of four schools, elimination of several jobs and the shutdown of a school pool.

The district eliminated \$8.2 million from last year's \$60.2 million budget which expired on Wednesday with the new one went going into effect on today.

"We couldn't have done it without our employees biting the bullet one more time," said school board President Joseph Steenland. "We have to take our hats off to our teachers who voted overwhelmingly 368 to 11 to approve the latest cuts and our other employees."

Roseville teachers haven't had a pay raise since 2008, according to Superintendent John Kment. He said poor economic conditions are the reason for pay cuts in all Roseville school district departments, including administration.

Besides a pay freeze, teachers will not get the 10 yearly steps it takes to get to the top of the seniority list. After 10 years teachers get a longevity payment which has been cut in half.

Most teachers received a \$1,000 bonus after 10 years. Now all Michigan Federation of Teachers members will get \$500.

Kment said the revisions to health care will save the district \$1.9 million.

He said one of the other major issues is dramatic cuts in health care. The co-pay for all employees was increased and office visits will cost more.

Employees must pay a \$1,000 deductible before being admitted to the hospital.

"Our employee unions had to take major concessions otherwise we couldn't have made ends meet," Kment said. "In all of my years in education this has definitely been the worst year for employees."

Kment said teachers will have to suffer with the largest class size in years. Most teachers will have 35 to 38 students in their home room classes.

Employees also will be forced to take four furlough days without pay.

Gary Scheff takes over as the new president of the Roseville Federation of Teachers, replacing Dave Skidmore.

Kment said Roseville will have 30 fewer teacher positions through retirement and layoffs resulting in a savings of \$2.5 million. The district also eliminated 13 custodial positions for a savings of \$404,648.

Other cuts in the budget include the closure of Pierce Elementary School to save \$140,250; close Guest School at a savings of \$249,200; close Lincoln School at a savings of \$202,774; eliminate four alternative education school for a savings of \$161,3667, close the Roseville Middle School pool to save \$200,000, cut 13 custodial positions for a savings of \$404,648; close the Alumni elementary School building to save \$233,810, and revise 15 custodial positions to save \$173,420.

The one day furlough will save the district \$913,338 while the longevity cuts will save \$723,355.

$$\$404,648 \div 13 = \underline{\underline{\$31,126.00}}$$

least seniority and
lowest paid 13 custodians

- closed
- Arbor
- Pierce
- Lincoln
- Alumni
- Eastland