

Board bows, okays Bible distribution

In the face of pressure from about 100 members of the district, the Cass City School Board buckled and rescinded a previously voted position not to allow Gideon Bibles to be distributed at the school.

The action was a highlight of the regular board meeting Monday night at the high school.

Besides the persons present the board received a petition with 300 signatures

asking for the distribution of the Bibles.

Not only did the board rescind the motion, it effectively destroyed a previous policy guideline that required a month's delay before changing a major policy. It was the second time this year that the policy has been ignored by the board.

In a previous meeting the board had voted 4-3 to not allow the distribution in the

schools because it was illegal.

Art Severance reported that he voted against the distribution because he felt the board should not endorse an illegal act. Since that time he said his research indicated that the courts ruled that it was illegal.

The crowd applauded when Dan Willis, a spectator, said that he quit Cass City schools in the 11th grade because he found pot,

cocaine, heroin, sex and a lack of morals there.

Mrs. Jackie Freiburger said that shaping the characters of children is the responsibility of the parents and the 11 churches in the community.

After several pastors and other members of the audience voiced approval of distributing Bibles in the school, a motion by Hoag passed 5-1 to allow the Gideons into the classrooms.

Trustee Ed Scollon dissented.

Because no Bibles have been distributed for the previous two years the board authorized not only the fifth grade students but also the sixth and seventh grade students to receive the Bibles.

Trustee J.D. Tuckey cautioned that the vote also means that any other religious document can be distributed free to the children in the school.

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DRIVER TRAINING

The board voted to rent driver education cars from Geiger-Hunt and Ouvry Chevy-Olds at a rate of \$4.00 per day. An attempt will be made to find a vehicle to replace the Chrysler product that was used as the dealer declined to furnish a car at the \$4.00 per day price. The

new price is up from the \$1.65 per day rate formerly in effect. The new vehicle will not be air conditioned as the present cars are.

This year driver training instructors will receive \$8.00 per hour, up from \$7.50.

SUMMER BAND

The board authorized special individual instruction for band students under the direction of Tom Clair.

Eight half hour lessons will be given for \$12. That figures out to \$3.00 per hour. The remainder of the cost, \$5 hour, will be picked up by the school. Clair said that 38 students have said they would attend and 30 others are listed as possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

A new, more comprehensive fifth and sixth grade Please turn to page 3.

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Springport Bindery Dec. 80
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Springport, MI 49284

TWENTY-TWO PAGES

Quick payback

Board seeks 1.6 mill boost for operations

The Cass City School Board voted Monday night at its regular meeting to ask district taxpayers at the June 9 election for 21.5 mills for operation.

If passed it will mean an increase in school operating taxes of 1.6 mills (\$1.60 per \$1,000 of state equalized valuation.)

To get the 21.5 mills electors will have to approve three different ballot proposals. One authorizes the renewal of 3 1/2 mills that is expiring. The second voids the tax limitation (Headlee amendment) that rolled back taxes to 20.9 this year. The third asks for an increase of .6 of a mill.

As has been the custom, the board asks for the levies for just one year under the theory that state aid funds vary from year to year and the amount received to run the schools is uncertain until the legislature acts.

While the three ballots can be confusing taxpayers can simplify it for themselves by remembering the total millage of 21.5 that represents an increase of 1.6 mills.

In addition to okaying the tax request the board gave tentative approval of an expenditure of \$60,000 from the general fund for a capital improvement and is taking a long look at \$20,000 more for playground equipment.

QUICK PAYBACK

Supt. Donald Crouse predicted a quick payback of 5 years or less for new windows at Campbell, Deford and Evergreen schools.

The project will cost an estimated \$124,000 and a Federal share-cost program will reduce the money needed from the general fund to \$55,000 to \$60,000.

Based on today's fuel cost, Crouse said that the school could save this amount in 5 years or less.

The windows will be purchased through Croft-Clara Lumber, Inc. Crouse checked several sources before recommending the lumber company. The windows will be installed and guaranteed to fit. The contractor

that installed the windows at the Intermediate School refused to guarantee them unless all work was performed by their employees so the change was authorized.

There will be no pay back for the recreational equipment under consideration. It's likely that not all of the various projects suggested by a committee headed by Dr. E. Paul Lockwood will be implemented.

According to reports of various principals \$2,028 worth of playground equipment is needed at Deford; \$1,700 at Evergreen; \$11,000

at Campbell and Intermediate, and \$5,100 for equipment on the hill north of the school.

The equipment under consideration includes basketball hoops with metal nets, swings, safer merry-go-rounds, wave slides, new type teeter-totters and obstacle course equipment.

The plan is to use the survey as a basis for securing equipment as expenditures are given board approval.

The board also approved the purchase of new books at a cost of over \$10,000. The purchases will replace books

that are seven years old or older. Among the new books is a new type of physics text.

According to Doug Grezeszak, instructor, Cass City will be the first to use the "individualized physics project" system in Michigan although it has been used in Canada for several years with success.

The initial cost of the instruction material will be \$996 for 26 students. That's considerably more than the \$575 that the traditional text would cost. However, after the initial expenditure, replacement costs should be less than traditional texts, Grezeszak believes.

Authorize building survey

O-G okays CB radios for buses

The Owendale-Gagetown Board of Education Monday evening took the first step in putting the district in compliance with the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which requires accessibility to school buildings by the handicapped.

William Britt and James Barr, elementary and high school principals respectively, who have been working on the compliance program, told the board failure to comply would mean a cutoff in all federal funds.

The 1979-80 school year budget projects federal revenue to the district at \$77,500, for education programs and pay for employees hired under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.

The district has to start evaluation of its needs by June 3 to comply with federal deadlines.

Basically, what the board did was give Britt and Barr authority to proceed.

The next step, the elementary principal explained, will be formation of a committee to survey both

school buildings to determine what needs to be done to put them into compliance.

Probably all that has to be done at the high school, he said, will be installation of two "for handicapped only" parking signs.

What will probably have to be done first at the elementary school will be installation of a ramp for wheelchair users, which, he added, could have come in handy a few days earlier when a wheelchair user visited the school.

The numerous stairs in the building will present some problems. Guardrails will have to be installed in some bathrooms and a low-to-the-floor telephone made available for use by wheelchair users.

The district won't have to make all changes at once, but there will have to be ongoing improvements. All costs will have to be borne locally.

If the cost of some items is prohibitive, Britt explained after the meeting, some alternatives might have to

be used. For instance, if inside stair ramps can't be made to accommodate the student, his class might have to be a room more accessible.

Britt said the committee should have a report ready for the board by its June 9 meeting.

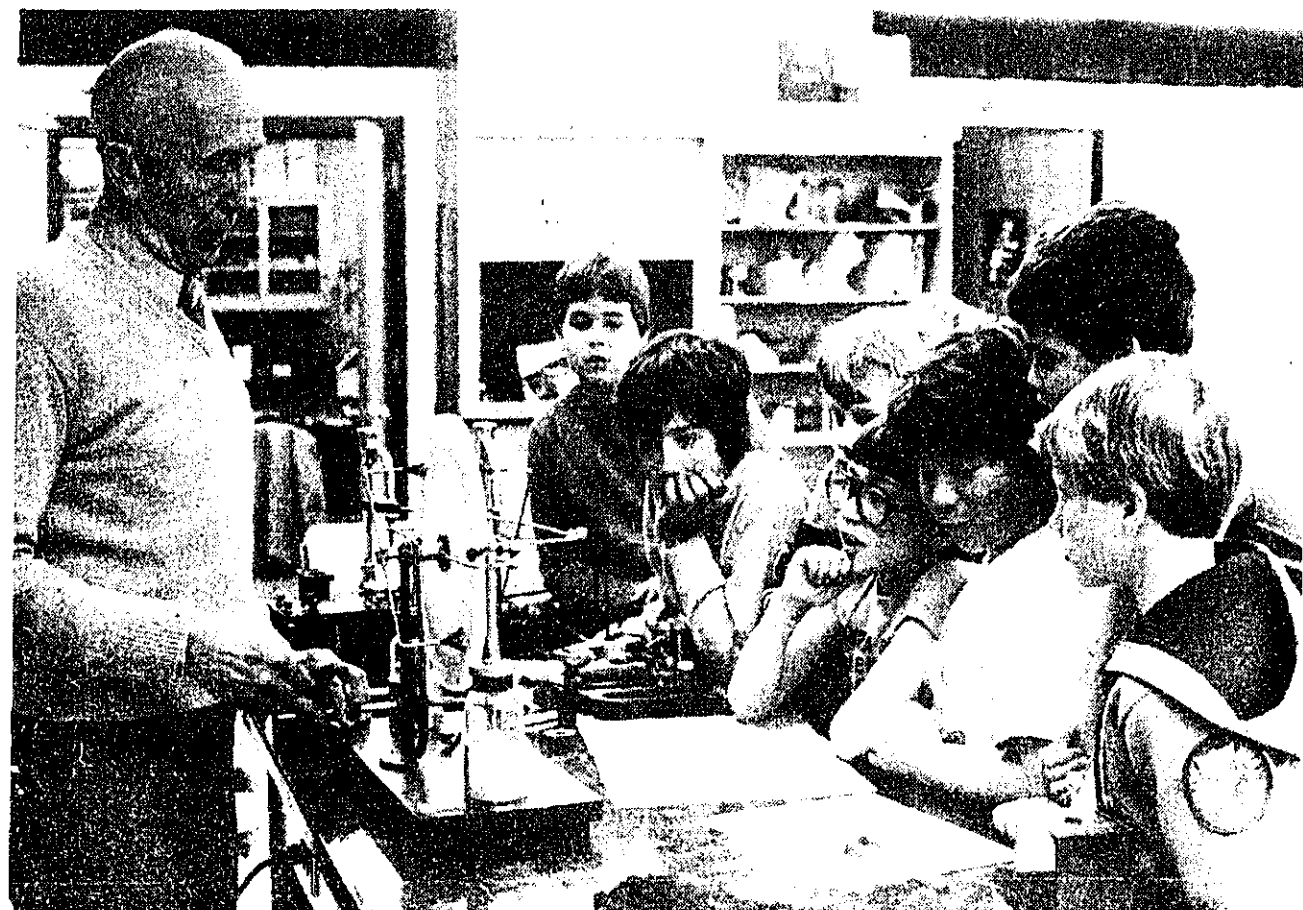
At present, the only physically handicapped student at Owendale-Gagetown, a tuition student from Cass City, uses a wheelchair and attends high school.

BUS RADIOS

Ending perhaps a couple of years of deliberation, the board voted to purchase nine citizen sideband radios, one per school bus, two base station radios and antennas.

They will be purchased from Paul Donovan's "Our Shop" in Deford for a total of \$2,539, plus 28 cents per foot of cable from the base radio antennas into the buildings. Britt solicited bids from several dealers and recommended Donovan's, based

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MR. WIZARD -- Retired Cass City High School principal and teacher Art Holmberg has kept 10 4th-6th grade boys fascinated on Saturday mornings in a Community Education class entitled "Come With Me to the Laboratory." Here, he demonstrates the Wimhurst machine, which generates static electricity. Last of the four sessions is this Saturday. Topics covered have been sound, chemistry, magnetism and electricity. Holmberg taught chemistry and physics here from 1935-43, was also principal from 1943-60, and was full-time principal from 1960 until he retired in 1969.

Michigan's half a primary for president Tuesday

Polls will be open Tuesday from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. for the presidential primary election.

In Austin township, there will also be a road millage renewal on the ballot.

Although voters will have a choice between voting Democratic or Republican, only the latter will count for anything.

Republican candidates listed are Ronald Reagan, George Bush, the only two candidates still in contention for the nomination, John B. Anderson, now running as an independent candidate but still listed as a Republican, plus perennial candidate Harold Stassen, Los Angeles businessman Benjamin Fernandez and "uncommitted."

In addition, Republican voters will also be choosing delegates to the May 28 county convention in Caro. Those elected will choose delegates to the state convention, at which the delegates to the national Republican convention will be chosen, based on results of Tuesday's primary.

If, for instance, George Bush gets 52 percent of the primary vote, he is supposed to get 52 percent of the delegates.

Novesta township is one of only two Tuscola county townships in which there is a contest for county convention delegates. (The other township is Indianfield.)

County Clerk Elsie Hicks and her husband, Gerald, are running as uncommitted delegates while David and Janet Moody are running pledged to Ronald Reagan. Only two delegates are to be elected.

Delegates running in Precinct 1 of Elkland township, four to be elected, are John Marshall, Mabel Marshall, Esther McCullough and Marie Roch, all uncommitted.

Running in Precinct 2, four to be elected, are Jack Gallagher, Edwin S. Karr, Maynard McConkey and Harold Perry, all uncommitted.

Area townships in which

delegates will be elected by write-in vote as no one filed petitions include Elmwood, Ellington, Kingston, Columbia and Grant.

The Democratic Party primary presidential is meaningless because the state party decided to elect their national convention delegates pledged to the candidates in closed caucuses, which has already taken place.

Because of that, the two leading contenders, President Jimmy Carter and Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy, withdrew from the ballot. (Based on the caucus vote, Kennedy will receive 71 Michigan delegate votes at the national convention; Carter, 70.)

That leaves two names in the Democratic column, California Gov. Edmund

Brown Jr., who has withdrawn from the national race, and Lyndon LaRouche Jr., former head of the U.S. Labor Party. The third Democratic choice is "uncommitted."

The Michigan primary is open, in that there are no restrictions on which party one can vote for. Democrats, for instance, can vote in the Republican primary.

In Austin township, Sanilac county, in addition to voting for presidential candidates, residents will also be voting on a four-year renewal of 2.5 mills for road maintenance and construction.

According to township Supervisor Claire Grifka, the township has had the millage in effect for at least 10 years. The levy that is expiring ran for five years.

The 2.5 mills will raise roughly \$16,000 a year for roads. The township also spends some money from its general fund and all of its federal revenue sharing for roads.

Grant township was to have two millage proposals on the ballot, one mill for five years for roads and one mill for three years for fire and ambulance service.

However, the election papers were filed too late to get it on Tuesday's ballot, due to a misunderstanding of when the deadline was, so the millage proposals will now appear on the Aug. 5 general election primary ballot.

Polling place for the presidential primary in most, if not all, townships is the township hall.

Candidates agree on most issues

Candidates running for the two positions on the Cass City School Board in the June 9 election didn't find much to disagree about when they presented their views last Thursday.

Seven of the eight candidates running spoke at the program presented by the Cass City Education Association, Fred Matthews, Dan Allen, Walter Zmierski, Rev. Harry Capps, Richard Albee, Ben Hobart and David Loomis.

Dr. E. Paul Lockwood, the one incumbent seeking reelection, was not present.

About 35 persons attended the program, held in the high school cafeteria. With the school board to decide four days later on the amount of the millage it will be seeking June 9, finances were much discussed.

Of those candidates who

did take a position, none spoke in opposition to an increase.

"It's not good to have to pay out money at a time like this," Loomis commented, adding that he felt cutbacks now would be harder to overcome in the future. "The school has got to have money to carry on."

Hobart pointed out that about 75-80 percent of the school budget goes for salaries. "I don't think our system has so many frills that you can cut part of it and not hamper the total educational process we have here," he supports the increase.

Others who expressed support for the millage were Capps, Albee and Allen.

Comments were also made about the upcoming negotiations with teachers for a new contract. Loomis

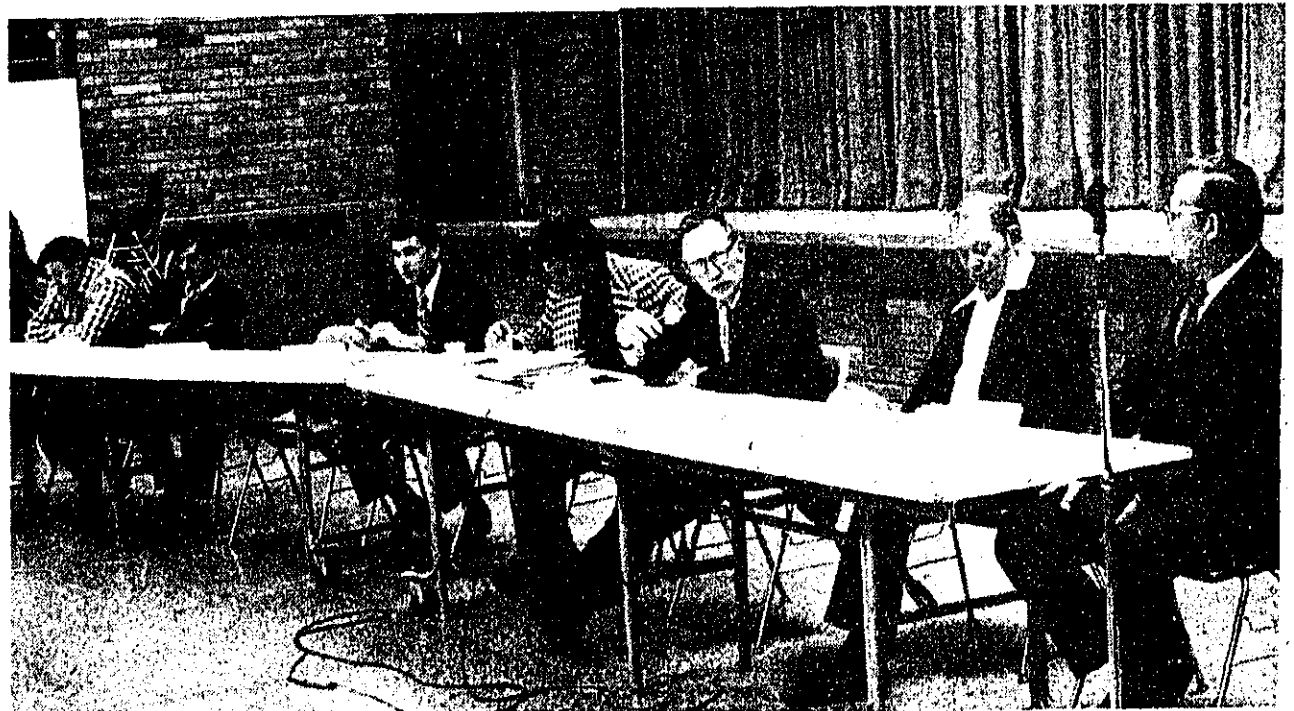
said that was as important as the millage. "You need both for continuing education."

As for what role the board should take in negotiations, Hobart thought that it should be up to professional negotiators to do the actual bargaining for the board. "I don't see why board members should negotiate with professionals from the other side."

Albee said if elected, he would like to attend the negotiating sessions, but only as an observer.

LONG-RANGE GOALS and problems for the school system was a question posed by the teacher committee that presented the program.

Allen mentioned declining discipline, due to lack of discipline in families, and a need to get back to the Please turn to page 14.



SEVEN OF THE EIGHT candidates running for the Cass City School Board appeared at the meet-the-candidates program last Thursday. They were, from left, Dan Allen, David Loomis, Richard Albee, Harry Capps, Fred Matthews, Ben Hobart and Walter Zmierski. Absent was Dr. Paul Lockwood. The program was sponsored by the Cass City Education Association.