Fests must pay piper

By STEVE BANDY

Crowley — The Acadia Parish School Board sent a message to parish festivals Monday that if festival officials want to dance to the music, they are going to have to pay the piper — or at least pay to have the piper bused into town.

Eyed a tightening budget, the board Monday voted to alter its policy concerning the attendance of parish school marching bands in local festival parades.

The board altered the policy by planning to charge the festivals for transportation costs.

Superintendent James Griffin said the matter had first been brought up this year, adding that a committee had been appointed at that time to study a possible solution.

Under the old policy adopted in November 1977, parish school bands were required to participate in the Friday and Saturday parades of the Crowley Rice Festival.

Also, parish school buses were required to provide free transportation for the bands to and from Crowley both days.

Under the new policy, all marching bands are to participate in the Saturday Rice Festival parade and in the Rayne Frog Festival parade on Sunday, provided the respective festival associations pay traveling expenses incurred by the bands.

If the expenses are not paid, the bands will not be obligated to attend, according to a resolution adopted by the board.