By Steve Bandy
Louisiana State Newspapers

Monetary matters kept the Acadia Parish School Board members busy during the regular meeting held Wednesday night here.

The session, originally scheduled for Monday, had been delayed two days due to the Mardi Gras holiday.

A proposed budget adjustment was adopted to increase the projected deficit by $34,711, bringing the 1987 estimated deficit to $221,755.

This new projection will decrease the prior year's fund balance of $5,381,338 to an estimated fund balance of $4,558,621, according to Joey Webb, finance officer.

Reviewing the February sales tax report, Superintendent Dr. James Griffin said collections were down $44,512.70, or 20 percent as compared to the same month last year.

The fiscal year-to-date figures reflect a $398,352.62 decrease, or 19.56 percent.

Griffin pointed out that this decrease is slightly larger than had been experienced on the average during the past few months, when percentages of decrease had remained between 18 percent and 19 percent.

The largest decrease last month, according to Dr. Griffin, was in the area of motor vehicle sales, which dropped $11,548 from February 1986.

Decreases of over $5,000 in both oilfield equipment and grocery sales added to the board's losses.

On a brighter note, comparative figures in this year's proposed budget cuts, showed that the board was actually a little ahead of expectations.

The board had set a goal of $635,000 in cuts in a variety of areas such as utilities, substitute pay, and travel expenses, to name a few.

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According to current projections, the total savings by the end of the fiscal year could be as much as $780,000, according to Webb.

Turning to the recent refinancing of the Church Point School District bond, final figures show that taxpayers in that area will save approximately $60,074 per year over the next nine years as a result of the refinancing.

Webb stated that taxpayers will save up to 7 mills the first year and approximately 4 mills every year thereafter.

Gross savings and interest paid will amount to $880,595.

After payment of debts incurred in the actual refinancing of the bond, the net savings will total $384,665.

In other action, the board called for an election on May 2 to renew a 5-mill tax for school maintenance.

The current 10-year tax expires at the end of this year and generates approximately $460,000 annually.

Also, the board took action to change its meeting policy, which now calls for the members to meet on the first and third Monday of each month.

The board will now only meet on the first Monday of each month, unless a second meeting is deemed necessary by the president. The new meeting schedule is effective immediately.