



## South Lake Educational Foundation

# In the News

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### LOCAL NEWS

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## Concerned parents pitch in at South Lake

**“We’ll be covering things that directly affect the students.”**

VERLYN REBELEIN, *chairman of the South Lake Educational Foundation*

- Foundation for school district aims to raise funds for such things as grants, cultural enrichment.

BY LISA MARTINO  
*The Detroit News*

**ST. CLAIR SHORES** — The South Lake school district is about to get a helping hand from the community.

A group of concerned parents and community leaders have created the South Lake Educational Foundation to raise money for programs not covered by the district's \$24 million budget, which is being strained by shrinking revenue and rising costs.

The foundation, which will separate from the board of education, will garner money for things such as small teaching grants and cultural enrichment.

“We saw the need to have another source (of revenue) and for the district to fund the types of things that might be important but that are not covered by the regular school budget,” Foundation Chairman Verlyn Rebelein said. “The foundation will not be covering utility bills or painting a wall or anything of that nature. We’ll be covering things that directly affect the students.”

The foundation hopes to start the grant application process for teachers in the spring. Rebelein said the grants are meant to award creative teaching approaches in any subject.

“Actually, it will be exciting to see what the teachers come up with,” he said.

To meet rising energy and fuel costs as well as increasing retirement and health care expenses, the district pared \$1.5 million in expenses from its \$24 million 2005-06 budget and is now looking at additional trims for next year, Superintendent William Putney said.

‘The ultimate hope (of the foundation) is that student achievement can be enhanced by having a better level of programming than our general fund budget can allow us to furnish,’ he said.

The foundation began meeting last month and is comprised of 15 trustees who are parents of South Lake students along with various community leaders.

Jeri Griffin Buboltz, whose son, Griffin, is in the second grade at Koepsell Education Center, said she’d like to see the foundation create permanent enhancements.

‘I’m hoping we can help fund a fine and performing arts auditorium and things like that, which will make a mark for generations of kids to come,’ she said.

## **To get involved**

**What:** The South Lake Educational Foundation

**Why:** The group aims to enhance educational opportunities for district students and fund innovative teaching ideas.

**How:** To make a tax-deductible contribution, send a check payable to South Lake Educational Foundation to 23101 Stadium Blvd., St. Clair Shores, MI 48080.

**For Information:** Call South Lake Schools at (586) 435-1600.