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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/114/2021_2022__E9_98_85_E8_AF_BB_E7_90_86_E8_c77_114099.htm When school officials in Kalkaska, Michigan, closed classes last week, the media flocked to the story, portraying the towns 2,305 students as victims of stingy (吝啬的) taxpayers. There is some truth to that. the property-tax rate here is one-third lower than the state average. But shutting their schools also allowed Kalkaskas educators and the states largest teachers union, the Michigan Education Association, to make a political point. Their aim was to spur passage of legislation Michigan lawmakers are debating to increase the states share of school funding. It was no coincidence that Kalkaska shut its schools two weeks after residents rejected a 28 percent property-tax increase. The school board argued that without the increase it lacked the \$1.5 million needed to keep schools open. But the school system had not done all it could to keep the schools open. Officials declined to borrow against next years state aid, they refused to trim extracurricular activities and they did not consider seeking a smaller perhaps more acceptable tax increase. In fact, closing early is costing Kalkaska a significant amount, including \$ 600,000 in unemployment payments to teachers and staff and \$ 250,000 in lost state aid. In February, the school system promised teachers and staff two months of retirement payments in case schools closed early, a deal that will cost the district \$ 275,000 more. Other signs suggest school authorities were at least as eager to make a political statement

as to keep schools open. The Michigan Education Association. hired a public relations firm to stage a rally marking the school closings, which attracted 14 local and national television stations and networks. The president of the National Education Association, the MEAs parent organization, flew from Washington, D. C, for the event. And the union tutored school officials in the art of television interviews. School supervisor Doyle Disbrow acknowledges the district could have kept schools open by cutting programs but denies the moves were politically motivated.来源 : www.examda.com

Michigan lawmakers have reacted angrily to the closings. The state Senate has already voted to put the system into receivership (破产管理) and reopen schools immediately. the Michigan House plans to consider the bill this week.1. We learn from the passage that schools in Kalkaska, Michigan, are funded .A. mainly by the state governmentB. exclusively by the local governmentC. by the National Education AssociationD. by both the local and state governments2. One of the purposes for which school officials closed classes was .A. to draw the attention of local taxpayers to political issuesB. to avoid paying retirement benefits to teachers and staffC. to pressure Michigan lawmakers into increasing state funds for local schoolsD. to make the financial difficulties of their teachers and staff known to the public3. The author seems to disapprove of .A. the shutting of schools in KalkaskaB. the involvement of the mass mediaC. the Michigan lawmakers endless debatingD. delaying the passage of the school funding legislation4. We learn from the passage that school authorities in Kalkaska are more concerned about .A. making a

political issue of the closing of the schools
B. the attitude of the MEAs parent organization
C. a raise in the property-tax rate in Michigan
D. reopening the schools there immediately

5. According to the passage, the closing of the schools developed into a crisis because of .
A. the strong protest on the part of the students parents
B. the political motives on the part of the educators
C. the weak response of the state officials
D. the complexity of the problem

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