

Farmingington Observer

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Trustees consider Fairview closing

By LYNN ORR

If the Farmington Board of Education follows staff recommendations, Fairview Elementary School will be closed at the end of the school year.

That's the message Fairview parents of 150 students received Tuesday night, as Supt. Lewis Schulman and Asst. Supt. Larry Freedman explained why the 12-year-old school building is the next victim of declining enrollment.

Fairview parents and staff saw the writing on the wall last month, when the surplus facilities task force presented its final report, targeting Fairview as the next elementary school on the chopping block.

The northeast section of the district has suffered a sharper student decline than other areas, which signaled the closing of either Fairview or Eagle, built in 1956. Fairview would operate at 50 per cent capacity next year if it stayed open.

However, Eagle houses the district's expensive orthopedic facility, and despite its age, is larger and better equipped to handle all the students in the area, the task force report explained.

While the Fairview parents expressed dismay, particularly in the loss of principal Don Cowen and his staff, most of those present appeared resigned to their children moving to Eagle next fall.

The board will make the final decision at the next board meeting, but comments at Tuesday's meeting failed to raise hope that the closing might be postponed.

Fairview, however will not be the last in the line of closed schools. Schulman warned the board and audience.

"It's wise that we do this in a systematic, organized fashion," he said. "More schools will be closed," he said, citing the continued pupil decline in the district.

While the district currently has nearly 14,000 students enrolled, projections indicate a student enrollment of 10,717 students in 1982, a drop of 3,283 students. The loss of students drastically affects state aid, he added.

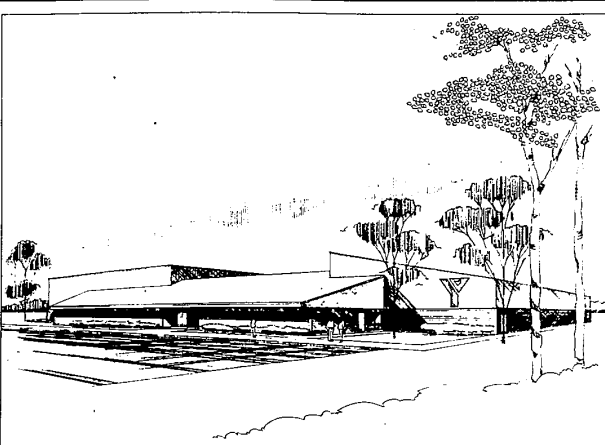
Some board members as well as parents questioned the projected savings in closing the small elementary school, located in the back of Old Franklin Town subdivision in West Bloomfield. Asst. Supt. of Finance William Prisk expects about \$70,000 to be saved in the closing. Total operating costs last year were \$20,000, while some utility costs will have to be retained to keep the building maintained.

The district may realize some income if the building is leased, Schulman noted, although he refused to specify possible uses when questioned by a parent.

The Fairview students will be transferred to Eagle, located on Fourteen Mile and Middlebelt, and all the students will be bussed to the school, although some students reside within the 1/4 mile walk perimeter.

Safety concerns necessitate the busing, Freedman said. Three bus runs may have to be added to the schedule, he says, although the final decision concerning bus runs won't be determined until next fall.

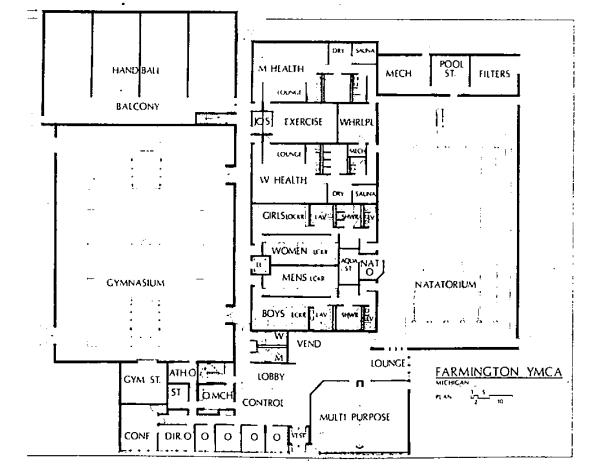
It's also possible the district may have to purchase one or two more buses to accommodate the 150 new students, Prisk added. The district may work out an alternate starting time schedule to avoid such purchases, he added.



This view will greet area residents who come to the YMCA recreation facility due to begin construction later this year.

'At long last we will be able to plan regularly-scheduled classes without competing with the Kayak Club or high school teams for a swimming pool or gym.'

- Lillian Allen
YMCA representative



Inside the facility, a number of rooms will be constructed to serve area residents both young and old.

\$900,000 is YMCA fund drive goal

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor

Back when they were kids, Floyd Cairns and John Clappison had to travel to Detroit to participate in any kind of organized recreational activities.

Because of those memories, the two native Farmington area residents have teamed up to lead the YMCA drive for raising \$900,000 in matching funds for building a 40,000 square foot recreational facility.

The kickoff for the drive will begin at a dinner to be held on Feb. 1 at Glen Oaks Golf Club. Cairns, as chairman, and Clappison, as honorary general chairman, will spearhead the drive to raise pledges from Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield and Novi residents to match a \$900,000 grant from United Foundation of the Metropolitan Detroit 'Y' and the Greater Farmington Area Family 'Y'.

Leading the West Bloomfield portion of the drive will be Richard Cramer, while Gil Henderson will be the 'Y' Novi chief.

Since their youth, Clappison, a Farmington insurance executive, and Cairns, the Farmington Hills city clerk, have become respected civic leaders. Both are enthused about the drive, which will lead to construction of the facility on Twelve Mile and Farmington Road.

Clappison speaks animatedly about the project.

"This is a natural evolution of our community growing up. This community has come of age and we are ready for our own YMCA facility," he says.

The quiet-spoken Cairns is more succinct in his evaluation of the drive.

"It's a worthwhile effort. That's why I'm involved," he says.

A target date of fall 1978 has been set to begin construction of the nearly \$2 million project.

Persons leading the drive stress that a major 'Y' facility is in tune with other recreational facilities in the area and deny that it would conflict with other recreational outlets such as the newly formed Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Division and the Farmington Community Center.

"A LIMITED availability of facilities demonstrates that we need such a facility in this area," says Frank Clappison, who also is involved in the drive.

The proposed new facility will be built on 12.8 acres of land already owned by the 'Y' at the Farmington Road site. Included in the plans are a physical fitness activity area, men's health club, women's health club,

indoor jogging track, whirlpool, 25-meter swimming pool for instructional and therapeutic use, gymnasium, locker rooms and showers, offices, multi-purpose rooms, handball-racquetball courts and a parking lot.

The emphasis is on "family," a concept which the 'Y' has been developing in an attempt to get away from the "Men in 'YM."

Men, women, children, including the physically handicapped, senior citizens, mentally retarded, pre-schoolers, and business people will be able to take advantage of the programs offered at the facility, according to public relations representative Lillian Allen.

Special planning in the building will enable the handicapped to have use of the pool and other areas.

"At long last we will be able to plan regularly-scheduled classes without competing with the Kayak Club or high school teams for a swimming pool or gym," says Ms. Allen.

'Y' spokesmen say that hundreds of volunteers will be ringing doorbells throughout the four-community area to raise funds.

Business and industry are being contacted by other volunteers who seek their help in making the new facility a reality within a year.

The Farmington area has had a 'Y' program since 1963, after being designated as a YMCA expansion area.

In 1965, a civic membership enrollment program was launched and the Farmington Area Extension Committee petitioned the Metropolitan Detroit YMCA Board of Directors to become the Farmington Area 'Y' Branch.

A large part of the funds will be raised through a pledge program, committing residents to give a certain amount of funds over a 3-5 year period.

"Reaching or exceeding the matching fund is imperative if the community is to obtain practical, low-cost financing for the completion of this project," says Ms. Allen.

"Pledging is the most satisfactory and efficient way to give for both you and the building fund campaign. Our matching needs is simply too high to be reached with the standard, out-of-pocket, cash gifts that we all give to operating annual appeals."

Fundraisers stress that more than 60,000 persons participated in the Farmington area 'Y' programs last year. They also stress that if the Farmington area contributors go without matching the funds, they will go to other communities.

Lansing opts to pay crime victims' tab

After years of spending millions of dollars on criminals, the state is now prepared to financially assist the victims of crime.

About a year ago the Michigan State legislature passed a bill setting up a Crime Victims Compensation Board, which is just now getting into full swing, according to State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington and Asst. field).

The board was established to assist victims who, through no fault of their own, suffered bodily harm as a direct result of the crimes.

The assistance covers out-of-pocket loss for medical care, non-medical remedial treatment, or other services necessary. Loss of earnings or support, resulting from the injury, also is a criteria of the board.

Victims are entitled to compensation for crimes covered by Michigan law and which cause personal physical injury to a victim in Michigan. They must be reported to the proper authorities within 48 hours of their occurrence.

Victims of crimes committed before Oct. 1, 1977, are not eligible under the act.

"All the state is attempting to say is that if they were injured as a result of this type of thing, we recognize the obligation to help them."

THOSE ELIGIBLE for an award include: A person who suffers a personal physical injury as a direct result of a crime; a person who goes to the aid of a victim and suffers personal injury; and the surviving spouse, parent, child or other dependent of a victim who died as a result of the crime.

Claims must be filed in person or by mail no later than 30 days after the occurrence of the crime or 90 days after the death of the victim. Both periods may be extended for good cause.

Emergency aid to a maximum of \$500 may be awarded if the claim is likely to result in an award and undue hardship will result if immediate payment is not made.

Claim processing begins when the prosecuting attorney of the county where the crime occurred is notified of the claim. The prosecuting attorney has 20 days to ask for a delay on further processing until conclusion of any criminal prosecution.

The claim is then assigned to a member of the board for examination, investigation, a hearing if necessary, and a decision, with reasons forwarded to the claimant.

If false information on a crime is presented and an award is made, criminal prosecution may result.

If, with intent to defraud or cheat, an award is made in an amount less

than \$100, the charge is a misdemeanor with a penalty of up to three months in jail, up to \$1,000 fine, or both.

City studies M-102 ramp construction

The debate over proposed additional ramps providing Farmington Road access to the M-102 expressway is expected to continue through the next few months.

The City of Farmington Planning Commission will be studying the feasibility of constructing entrance and exit ramps to the expressway, which parallels Freedom, keeping in mind the recently-received reviews of the proposals from the Oakland County Road Commission.

westbound street if ramps are added.

The proposed widening of Nine Mile west of Farmington Road by the state highway department would improve the general operation of the roadway, Bair added.

Bair ATTEMPTED to address some of the concerns of the subdivision homeowners. City Mgr. Robert Deadman told city council members last week.

One treatment that might solve traffic congestion problems would be to close the access street from the subdivision to Freedom. Another would be to install stop signs to deter traffic from using the subdivision.

He states that generally the road commission does not favor this type of treatment, since overuse of stop signs tends to encourage people to disregard the signs, creating even more hazardous situations," Deadman explained.

City officials also are awaiting any state or county proposals to alleviate traffic at the Ten Mile-Halsted intersection, Deadman added.

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