

Farmington Observer

Volume 92 Number 83

Thursday, July 30, 1981

Farmington, Michigan

64 Pages

Twenty-five cents

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Trustees approve FEA pact

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

In a 5-2 vote, the Farmington Board of Education ratified a two-year contract with Farmington teachers Tuesday.

Trustees Emma Makinen and Richard Wallace cast the dissenting votes for reasons neither would disclose.

The contract will give the 700 members of the Farmington Education Association (FEA) an average 10.5 percent pay increase the first year and a 9.5 percent hike the second year.

"Both maintain our position in the top 25 percent of Oakland County school districts," said Robert Coleman, chief negotiator for the schools.

In a first-time vote by mail, teachers overwhelmingly approved the contract, 567-35.

SUPERINTENDENT LEWIS Schuman praised negotiators Coleman and FEA Director Zan Alley "for their efforts to reach a successful conclusion well ahead of the start of the school year."

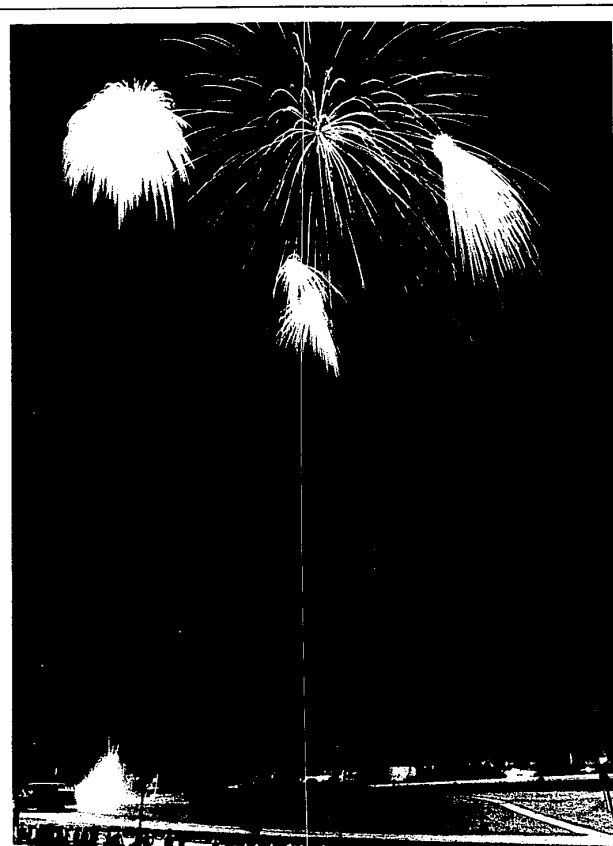
The pact was reached after 55 hours of negotiations in June.

"We had our minds set to believe Friday, June 26, was Labor Day," Alley said. "We reached an agreement fair to both sides."

Other highlights of the contract include reduction of class size by one student at all grade levels, 22 minutes of additional class preparation time for middle school teachers, and changes in the shared teaching and voluntary layoff clause, allowing teachers the option of sharing teaching time with laid-off teachers.

There were also adjustments in extra duty assignment schedules and improvements in optical health insurance coverage.

The contract is effective Aug. 31, 1981 through Aug. 31, 1983.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Festival fireworks

The sky over Oakland Community College was ablaze Saturday with a fireworks display, one of the highlights of the 17th Annual Farmington Founders Festival.

For more pictures of the week of festivities, please turn to Pages 3A, 14A and 15A.

Council vet out of race

Councilman Earl Oppertbauer has complicated the Farmington Hills council election by announcing his retirement and casting his support to moderate candidate Fred Hughes.

The 18-year legislative veteran, although complimenting present council members, three of whom are seeking re-election, said Hughes was the most capable replacement.

"The guy has proven what type of individual he is," said Oppertbauer at the Monday council session.

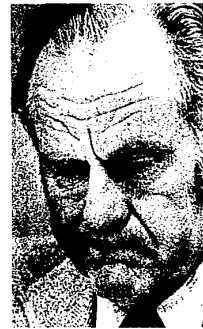
"Fred doesn't have an axe to grind as other candidates might," he said. Hughes, a member of the city's planning commission, expressed surprise at the Oppertbauer nod.

"I would hope that it was based on my work with the planning commission," said Hughes, who has served on the commission for the last seven years.

A 13-year resident of the Hills, Hughes is the director of internal auditing for Michigan Bell telephone. He also was recently promoted to an executive position with Grand Trunk Railroad.

"The past several weeks I have been questioned many times if I was going to run for re-election; my answer is I am not," he said to a surprised audience which included many of his council colleagues, who were unaware of his intentions.

"CONTINUED PRESSURES on my time by my place of employment and family obligations make it difficult to do the job of city councilman," he said. Oppertbauer had considered stepping aside four years ago but changed



Earl Oppertbauer

his mind because "the city was in a different condition."

That different condition was a council which was transforming from a historically moderate to a conservative majority. It also was in the midst of a controversy over the fate of senior citizen housing in the community.

"I don't believe that I would be leaving the council in a weakened condition," he said. "I don't feel the council will be depleted by not being here next January."

Although Oppertbauer publicly sup-

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Council hopefuls file

Five candidates have filed for the Farmington Hills City Council election in November.

The candidates include three incumbents: Joe Alkateeb, Jan Dolan and JoAnn Soronen. The other two are planning commission chairman Fred Hughes and Charles Williams, he said. Oppertbauer had considered stepping aside four years ago but changed

his mind because "the city was in a different condition."

There will not be a primary election because only five persons filed for the four council positions open. If eight or more persons filed there would have been a primary election before the Nov. 3 ballot.

Redress for WWII internment camps

Japanese seek Congressional probe

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

Japanese Americans are speaking out.

Prompted by the parallel they draw to the recent Iranian crisis they are ready to share the experience of U.S. concentration camps with other Americans.

Scattered among the metropolitan Detroit area's 2,000 Japanese Americans are survivors of World War II internment camps who can still recall even the most trivial detail of their imprisonment four decades ago.

"These persons were among the 110,000 Americans of Japanese descent who were stripped of their freedom and placed in camps in the western U.S. during World War II.

"You don't realize the impact of the experience until years later," explained Minoru Togasaki of Farmington Hills.

"It takes awhile until these things sink in. You mature. You get angry," Togasaki says angry last year when Iranian students here had to register with the U.S. Department of Immigra-

tion and Naturalization and some of them were deported because 50 Americans were being held hostage in Iran.

"To condemn a group because of a minority shouldn't happen," Togasaki said. "We're all Americans."

A presidential commission has scheduled congressional hearings through October to address the issue of Japanese internment during World War II.

"I don't like to stress the compensation point of view," said Dr. Kaz Mayeda, a Wayne State University biology professor and president of the Detroit Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) chapter.

"The issue is redress: correcting what was wrong," he said.

Mayeda, of Bloomfield Hills, spent two of his teenage years in Camp Manzanar, Calif., the first of 10 camps established for the internment of Japanese Americans.

"The constitution failed to protect me," he said. "If we don't pursue (redress) then we leave it wide open to pass down to our children and grandchildren. It will be perpetrated on them."

TOSHI SHIMOURA of Southfield recalls the countless questions from her four children.

"They asked many questions about the camps," she said. "Particularly my oldest son, who is a lawyer."

Mrs. Shimoura was 19 when her family was transported from the bay area farm near San Francisco to internment in Topaz, Utah.

"The constitution failed to protect me. If we don't pursue redress, it will be perpetrated on our children and grandchildren."

— Kaz Mayeda

"It was always dusty. We ate in a central mess hall. Latrines and showers were wide open."

— Toshi Shimoura

"It was very shocking. As a second-generation American, I didn't feel less than anyone else."

"They were first moved to a makeshift assembly plant at a race track where they slept in horse stalls for four months, she said. Then they were shipped to Utah by train, with orders to keep the window shades pulled down for the duration of the trip.

"Maybe they didn't want anyone to see what was happening," she said.

Camp life was rustic. The family of five shared one room, barren except for beds and a stove.

"The roads weren't paved, so it was always dusty. We ate in a central mess hall. The latrines and showers were wide open."

While she attended camp high school, her father and other male internees were transported outside the compound daily to till the sandy soil and plant crops under the watchful eye of armed guards.

Although life proved overbearing in some camps, like Manzanar where riots broke out, Topaz was peaceful.

AFTER THE WAR, Mrs. Shimoura studied microbiology at Michigan State University and married a Detroit native in 1952.

"The public isn't totally aware of what transpired," she said. "I'm absolutely amazed by the ignorance. Once while addressing a group of teachers talking about the evacuation, one of them asked what country I was talking about."

"To me, (monetary) compensation



Toshi Shimoura

isn't as important as setting the record straight."

She explains the time lapse this way. "For a long time, we didn't want to talk or feel about it — the indignity of being pulled out of our homes, the inferiority of being made to feel less than everyone else.

"It's a form of maturity to be able to talk about it, to think about it. The thrust is, we don't want something like this to happen again."

Togasaki was spared the fate of living in camp, but the rest of his family was interned in Idaho.

Fresh out of Michigan State University and employed by the state highway department in Lansing, Togasaki was subjected to subtle harassments.

"The police called me at work and invited me down to the station to answer questions. I was fingerprinted." An FBI agent tried to discourage him from visiting his imprisoned family. He made the trip in November 1942.

"IT WAS STRANGE to see my dad

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Voters to get EMS question

By Gary M. Catoe
staff writer

Farmington Hills voters are finally going to vote on amending the city charter to provide for emergency medical service.

Voters will be asked in November to approve a maximum increase of two mills to provide for the service.

City council, basing their decision on a recent administrative cost study, approved the motion 5-2, at Monday night's meeting.

Voting in favor were Joe Alkateeb, Jan Dolan, William Lange, Jo Ann Soronen and Donn Wolf; against were Jack Burwell and Earl Oppertbauer.

This latest decision in the 8-month-old controversy came after 90 minutes of debate over the proposed costs and

obligations of the city to provide the service.

The cost study, presented by City Manager Larry Savage, showed the service would cost about \$606,000 annually for two units, each operated by two-person teams.

The cost of this service could then be covered by a one-mill increase. Currently one mill in Farmington Hills generates \$858,000.

Savage also noted that many departments are now using three-person units, which could be done at a cost of \$841,941 annually and could still be covered by a one-mill increase.

Although it would only cost one mill to start the service, the council decided to ask for a maximum of two mills.

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