

FLE Committee OKs Report On Minority Understanding

By VICTOR OMECZENKO

Unanimous approval for a minority understanding program in Farmington public schools came from the school board's Family Life Education committee Wednesday night.

The FLE's minority understanding task force, a subcommittee of 11 persons, submitted its recommendations in a nine page report after a year's work.

"The race problem is not a black problem but a white problem in relating to the black and any other minority," said Stephen Hack, task force chairman.

"This report is laying the groundwork for what we will try to do later on," he continued. "We all feel it accurately reflects what can be done in the way of increasing minority understanding," commented Hack.

"We'll now proceed to forward the report to the Board of Education for its approval," said Rev. Hugh Stewart, FLE chairman and task force member.

DURING THE MEETING, FLE members discussed those recommendations of the task force which confused them. In some cases wording was changed. However, the FLE did not delete any recommendations.

"Students shall be exposed to personnel who reflect a variety of religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds," stated the report.

"But is there any place on applications for such information on a teacher's background?" asked Mrs. Fran Copp. "Maybe you can tell someone's ethnic group, but what about his religious and socio-economic background?" she wondered.

The task force considered this problem, explained Joseph Nicita, director of secondary education and subcommittee adviser. "But it was decided that if a recommendation is a good thing, it should be written in," he said.

The school board may decide to change when implementation of the program finally occurs, continued Nicita.

"At least minorities will know they're welcome to apply," added Paul Dietz, task force member.

TO INCREASE minority understanding among teachers, the report said "professional staff awareness of the nature of institutional racism and its effect on the educational process" should be included in an in-service training program.

Two kinds of institutional racism exist, explained Hack. "Direct institutional racism involves some organization like the Ku Klux Klan. Indirect racism includes any institution that has policies discriminating against a minority, either overtly or covertly, intentionally or unintentionally.

"For example, IQ tests have a built-in discrimination against disadvantaged people because they are based on middle-class values," said Hack.

The report mentions that in-service training programs "shall be encouraged by the administration."

"I feel that statement should be stronger so teachers can take advantage of the program," said Mrs. Copp. The phrasing was changed to "shall be implemented."

IN REGARD to personnel recruitment, the report says "indications of academic record and personal experience in relation to minority understanding will be favorably considered."

Does this mean an applicant should have all A's? wondered several FLE members. After some discussion, the recommendation was changed to "academic preparation."

In commenting on the research sources used,

Hack mentioned that Dr. James House, a black consultant for, the Wayne County Intermediate School District was particularly helpful.

House had told the task force about a study by a Michigan and Ohio committee in which a researcher had traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and found not one school system attacking the problem of minority understanding.

"Dr. House believes that if Farmington schools came up with a program, it would be the first in the country," said Hack.

Task force members also sent letters to five nearby school systems, asking what they were doing in the area of minority understanding.

While Walled Lake public schools seemed to be really doing something, the other four said that as soon as they see the Farmington program, they will go ahead on theirs," commented Hack.

SEVERAL SUBCOMMITTEE members also commended the three high school students on the task force.

"They had quite an impact on what resulted," said Mrs. Marian McCracken, a teacher at Eagle elementary School.

Now that the minority understanding task force has completed its report, what will happen to it? "We continue to exist at the pleasure of the Board of Education," answered Rev. Stewart.



Why Study Challenges Community

Minority understanding instruction in Farmington Public Schools "shall strive to provide a total educational environment in which each student will develop understanding and learn skills necessary to live peacefully and productively with all members of the human race."

That was the recommendation and challenge, made Wednesday night by the minority understanding task force of the school board's Family Life Education (FLE) committee.

AFTER MEETING for a year, the task force has completed its work and forwarded its suggestions to the school board for approval.

The task force is chaired by Stephen Hack and includes Paul Dietz, Ronald Goders, Kenneth Grabowski, Mrs. Marion Kilkka, Mrs. Rosemary Knighton, Kathleen Lynott, Mrs. Marian McCracken, Jack Mingo, Roger Round and the Rev. Hugh Stewart.

The task force explains its suggestions are designed to increase minority understanding at all levels - student, teacher, administrator, parent, and community-at-large.

The committee asks that minority understanding be included in the curriculum and school programs for all students from K-12 grades.

THE REPORT SUGGESTS that students be exposed to staff personnel who reflect a variety of religious, ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

The foreign exchange program is seen as a continual effort to stimulate different ideas from the multi-national and multi-racial background of visiting exchange students.

The report asks that student assemblies be held to promote human relations with sufficient time given after a speaker's presentation to allow discussion and critical analysis.

Also suggested is sponsorship of clubs in individual schools to promote understanding of attitudes, ideologies and life styles of other individuals and groups. The school board is asked to

appoint a standing committee of administrators, teachers, students and parents to:

- Review any materials

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Ask Abuse Study OK Monday

Substance abuse guidelines to be added to the curriculum for Farmington public schools will be presented to the Board of Education for action Monday night.

PREPARED BY a task force of the board's Family Life Education (FLE) committee, the recommendations ask the board to:

- Provide in-service training for all elementary and secondary teachers;

• Appoint a substance abuse coordinator to assist building principals with student, parent and faculty programs;

- Incorporate a substance abuse course within the adult education program.

Elementary and secondary programs focus upon substance abuse as a three-fold topic including drugs, tobacco and alcohol.

All programs and methods of presentation must be geared to the maturity and grade level of the child as stipulated by the task force report.

THE REPORT has the culmination of a year's study and discussion by a task force under the direction of the Rev. Carl Kalfreider.

Members of the task force include: the Rev. Hugh Stewart, FLE general chairman, Dr. Edwin Blumberg, Mrs. Earle Copp, Robert Deadman, Bruce Duke, Miss Jill Turley, Mrs. Rene Sovel, Westley Mitchell, William Kelly, Mrs. Louise Rickett and John K. Cotton.

Monday's board meeting will begin at 8 p.m. in the administration building on Shawasse just west of Power Rd.

today's hot line

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what's inside

She Has 3 Careers

Marcia Martin manages to carry on three careers at the same time. See how she does it, and why, on today's Amusements Page.

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Tolerance & Minorities

Daniels Den says we should lower our voices, not our tolerance. Your weekend editorial page also includes comment on the minority understanding report which is now being studied by the Farmington Board of Education.

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Gotta Pay Dues

A drive is under way to raise money to operate the Farmington Community Center for the next year. Details of the drive are found inside plus the weekly "At the Center" column reporting on Center activities.

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4 Drug Days

Efforts to combat drug use continue on all community levels. Clarenceville students and their parents may attend an all-day seminar May 15 in the Clarenceville High auditorium and hear Wayne County Circuit Judge John B. Swainson talk on drug abuse. A three-day abuse series for Farmington junior high schools begins Wednesday.

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For Clarenceville

The superintendent and some school board members in Clarenceville are revising a number of rules after a weekend conference. Meanwhile, a swim club is preparing an attractive show for the public.

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Farmington Collegians Plan Rally

By WYLIE GERDES

Orchard Ridge in Farmington is a long way from Cambodia. It's not so far from Kent, Ohio. Hundreds of colleges and universities closed after Ohio National Guardsmen killed four Kent State University students. Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College remained open.

ABOUT 100 students and teachers met Tuesday and Wednesday on the Farmington Township campus to plan a reaction to the shooting of 14 students at the Ohio University. Four of the wounded students died.

The Orchard Ridge students planned a rally for noon Friday in the amphitheatre on the campus. They also raised the possibility of marching into the community after the rally.

Wednesday, about 20 students sat in a large circle in a room in the J Building discussing possible reactions to the "Kent massacre" and the invasion of Cambodia.

Other students and a few teachers and adults gathered around the circle and exchanged comments and views.

THE CROWD was surprisingly small considering the emotional tone of most other college campuses. One student commented that Orchard Ridge students did not seem to be willing to close the school for a day or half a day. Another student cracked, "Or even for a minute."

Only one minor incident occurred on the Farmington campus after the violence at Kent State University. Students lowered the school's flag to half-mast Tuesday. Authorities removed the flag from its pole.

lowered to half-mast by a student. An administrator at the meeting said the flag would fly at half-mast for as long as the students wanted.

When the administrator was asked if it would fly at half mast until President Nixon comes to the Vietnam War, he replied, "Not that long."

The students finally decided the flag should fly at half mast until President Nixon comes to the Orchard Ridge Campus and asks that the flag be raised.

Most of the discussion among students concerned advisability of marching into Farmington or confining activities to the campus.

"This is the most hostile community you can imagine," one student commented after a march off campus was suggested.

"The people would stand there and cheer on the cops," another commented.

THE GROUP also decided to open the rally to everyone. When a faculty member offered his help, a student said the demonstration should be student led. The student was quickly hustled down.

The group also decided to distribute leaflets in both Farmington high schools announcing the event.

When an onlooker cautioned students not to enter the schools or school property, a student replied, "Fortunately, we've got brothers and sisters in the high schools to distribute the leaflets."

Another student drew laughter from the crowd when he questioned how many high school students would attend a rally on a school day.

"You don't know Farmington high school students," another student replied. "One of elder onlookers commented: 'We'd be we'd get out and have a beer bust. Things sure have changed.'"



NO FLAG DAY—Students at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Township wanted their school's flag at half mast in honor of four dead Kent State University students. After students lowered the flag to half mast Tuesday, college officials removed the flag from its pole. (Evert photo)

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