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State Board Deadlock Holds Up School Bonds

Farmington high school expansion program is facing a critical delay because of a political-legal fight in Lansing.

The Farmington Board of Education had planned to take bids April 25 for construction of classroom additions and pools and auditoriums for the two senior high schools.

But the fight in Lansing has held up state approval of Farmington's application to float a \$6.1 million bond issue. The Michigan Municipal Finance Commission, state watchdog over local borrowing, is at a

deadlock and cannot approve bond applications.

The MMFC met Tuesday and split 2-1 over a policy of bond approvals. A unanimous vote of the three-man board is required.

FARMINGTON Supt. Gerald V. Harrison said Wednesday that the district might have to postpone the taking of construction bids, originally scheduled for April 25, until the state can approve the bond issue.

Bidding contractors, he said, can't be expected to hold firm to a bid price for more than 60 days.

The classroom additions to the high schools are scheduled for opening in September of 1968 and the pool-auditorium additions in January of 1969. Delay in the beginning of construction could push these dates into the future.

Voters approved the bond issue in November of 1965. The school board applied for MMFC approval of the bond issue in August of 1966 and had expected to sell by bonds by November. This is the end of March—and still the bonds haven't been approved.

IN THE MUNICIPAL FI-

nance Commission battle, Supt. of Public Instruction Ira Polley is retaining a policy change brought about by the two new members, Attorney General Frank Kelley and State Treasurer Allison Green.

He retains the background: The state constitution sets up a loan fund which school districts can tap to pay construction bonds. Purpose of the fund is to keep local property tax rates from going too high and to strengthen school districts' credit ratings.

The Legislature by a 1964 law requires local school districts to levy at least seven mills for debt service purposes where they can tap the state fund.

Several weeks ago, the MMFC made a rule that requirement is allowed to remain as low as seven mills, the local districts will borrow too much from the state, and the state's credit rating will be impaired.

Polley said "there is some evidence to indicate a long-range trend toward legislative authority and (2) setting their financing plans.

Polley on Tuesday said he couldn't go along with Kelley and Green. Polley's office told

The Enterprise that he would support a change in the law to lift the seven mill requirement.

Supt. Harrison said schools wouldn't necessarily oppose lifting the millage requirements as it applies to future bond issues, but he objected to applying the policy change to bond issues which voters have already approved—such as Farmington's.

THE REASON Farmington's plans are upset, he said, is that the school district promised voters in 1965 it would reduce the debt service tax rate one mill per year for four years in order to lift the operating tax rate to the same amount.

At that time, Farmington's debt service rate was 11 mills; in 1966 it was 10; currently it's nine; in 1968 it is to be eight; and in 1969, seven mills.

"We had anticipated that we would have to borrow from the state fund at the eight mill point," Harrison said.

Harrison said the school district would be unable to float the issue, even if the MMFC approved it with the higher millage requirement.

In money terms, having the full faith and credit of the state behind the bond issue would probably lead to a reduction in the interest rate of 0.25 per cent, he said.

WHAT CAN the school districts do about it?

A few districts, Harrison reported, have considered appealing to the State Supreme Court against the restrictions imposed by the MMFC.

Another possibility, he said, is that the Legislature can clarify the law and bring some surer on the MMFC majority to stick to the seven mill policy.

Finally, the MMFC itself is expected to call a public hearing soon at which school officials can tell their problems and help the MMFC figure out just how much help the state will have to give them.



SPEECH therapist Mrs. Joan Courville demonstrates proper lip formation for certain sounds to Karen Bebe, first grader at Shilwassee School.

Speech Correction Caseload 800 Here

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

This is a talking world. If a child cannot communicate, he might as well forget a normal life.

No one is more aware of the importance of communication than Farmington School District's nine speech correctionists.

Their current caseload is approximately 800 children. One local correctionist estimates that 15 to 20 per cent of all kindergarten children have speech defects.

THE 900 CHILDREN attend Farmington's 22 schools. Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Fabian's Catholic schools and two elementaries and a junior high school in Novi.

Directed by acting chief of speech correction Douglas H. Smith, the staff includes Mrs. Lois Jean Schmidt, John Schmidt, Elizabeth Stamos, Mrs. Barbara Meach, Mrs. Joan Courville, Mrs. Florence Sharp, Mrs. Nancy Roberts and Robert Cook.

As recently as 1955, Mrs. Courville was the only correctionist serving six elementary schools and the senior high.

Not all school districts are as rich in speech correctionists as Farmington. They are hard to come by, as are all special education teachers.

The nine hold either bachelor of science or bachelor of arts degrees, although much of their training is para-medical, with emphasis on special education courses.

Correctionists study a great deal of anatomy, much psychology, specific courses in speech pathology, classes in hearing conservation and audiometric testing and various methods of teaching speech-handicapped children.

It is still a four-year course, but fast becoming five years.

Seventy-five per cent of the local program is financed by the state, 25 per cent by Oakland County special education millage.

EACH CORRECTIONIST travels to classes at three elementary schools. Each must see 75 pupils to meet state requirements for reimbursement. Individual case loads must not exceed 100.

All Farmington first graders are speech screened in the fall, as are all pupils in grades

one through six new to the district. Students who transfer within the district are not screened.

Class sessions are held from 25 minutes to one-half hour twice a week during school hours. Class size is kept to no more than five children. Sessions are held wherever possible in small rooms. In the early days, correctionists held classes in school basements and even in closets.

SCREENING IS done by means of picture stimulus and techniques to encourage conversation, using norms gleaned from research.

During class, children are exposed to bright colorful materials such as cards whose pictures call for enunciation of certain sounds like "s," "t" and "w."

Class materials depend a great deal on the ingenuity of the individual therapist. Smith says correctionists are the greatest purchasers of gimmicks which might induce conversation by the youngsters.

Classes, according to Smith, are conducted "in an atmosphere of constructive criticism." Pupils listen to each other and learn from each other's mistakes.

Utmost communication must be maintained with the parents. Speech therapy is never forced on a child. Parental permission must be obtained. Progress reports are sent home at mid term and term end and telephone contact is maintained throughout the year.

On difficult problems, parental supervision is sought for the child at home.

SPEECH CORRECTIONISTS work a long, slow road. Unlike the average elementary teacher, a correctionist does not finish with a child at the end of the school year. Speech therapy can go on for years.

But a correctionist put his basic philosophy of teaching this way:

"Speech is learned behavior. If a child has learned something incorrect, you can usually change it one way or the other. The key is in how it is done."

How Kids 6-14 U-M Expert On Can Get Free Classified Ads City Due Here

Area youngsters will be interested in the display ad on page 6-B of this week's Enterprise.

To celebrate Want Ad Week March 28 through April 1, the Enterprise is offering young students 6-14 years of age free advertisements in the "Kids Classified Ad" column.

So, boys and girls, turn to page 6-B and read all about it.

Disturbed by rumors that the Future Farmington Area Study Committee is opposing incorporation of part of Farmington Township as a home rule city, Chairman John Richardson has written to subdivision and PTA presidents and officers inviting them to the group's next meeting.

Prof. Arthur W. Bromage, of the University of Michigan's Institute of Public Administration, will address the group Thursday, March 23, at 8 p.m. in the East Junior High School cafeteria. The meeting is open to the public.

IN A MEMO to the private citizens and local government officials, who form the study committee, Dr. Richardson said:

"I am quite disturbed with the 'feedback' I have been getting that the study committee is advocating a 'No' vote on the pending incorporation question facing the township voters, since for the study a 'Yes' vote is the best course of action for our total community."

"Let me re-emphasize that we are taking no stand on either question—merely gathering facts that will permit the voters to make intelligent decisions."

Thursday's speaker, Dr. Bromage, has been with the U-M since 1929 and headed its political science department from 1961-64. He has been an Ann Arbor city councilman and a charter consultant to many cities.

Absentee Ballots Deadline Is April 1

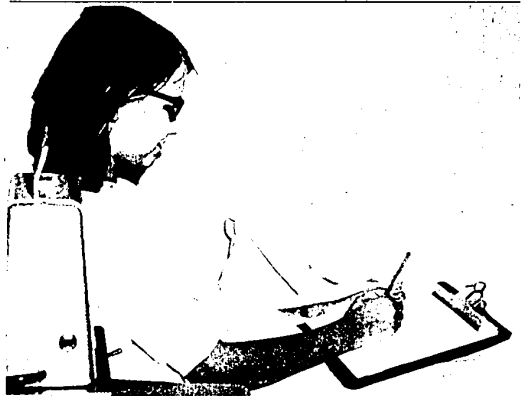
Saturday, April 1, is the deadline for City of Farmington voters to apply for absentee ballots for the April 3 election.

City Clerk's Treva Quinn said her office will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day.

To be eligible for an absentee ballot, a person must be registered and be unable to go to the polls for a valid reason during normal voting hours April 3.

None of the incumbent candidates is opposed for re-election. They are Councilmen H. E. Peterson, Howard W. Thayer and Ralph D. Yoder, Municipal Judge Michael J. Hand and Associate Judge Dennis H. Berman.

Top two candidates in the council race will get four years terms and the other will get a two-year term. Both judges' terms will expire at the end of 1968.



CAROLYN BRIDGES GOES TO SCHOOL.

School Via Telephone

Carolyn Bridges may have a broken leg—but she still goes to school.

She attends via telephone.

Carolyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Bridges Jr., of 33787 James Court, broke her leg Jan. 29 while she was tobogganing.

She is a student at Farmington Junior High and keeping up with her school work became the first order of business while her leg was mending.

Through his job at Michigan Bell Telephone Co., Carolyn's father knew about the company's school-to-home service which it installs and maintains with charges rated on a monthly basis.

By using a speaker installed in her bedroom, Carolyn is up with her class in her four main subjects—world history, English, biology and algebra.

Mrs. Bridges says that apart from the academic standpoint, the service's therapeutic value for her daughter has been marvelous.

A visiting teacher, Mrs. Lois Cotton, sees Carolyn twice a week to work with her and administer tests.

In-between, the young invalid has time to catalog the over 150 get-well cards, friends and classmates have sent her. It really lightens her day to know she's not forgotten at school.

Jaycee Easter Egg Hunt Next Saturday

Saturday, March 25, is the date of Farmington's annual Easter egg hunt. The hunt will take place at 10 a.m. in the Farmington City Park, on Shilwassee east of Farmington Road.

All Farmington township and city children eight years and under are invited to attend. The Easter Bunny will be present and prizes will be awarded to the best hunters among the youngsters in various age categories. The event is being sponsored again this year by the Farmington Jaycees.

Big New Tax Package Seen

The state may get an even bigger tax package than Gov. Romney requested, according to State Rep. Raymond L. Baker, R-Farmington.

The reason, he said, is that school teachers are pushing for a hike in state aid, which may necessitate tax rates even higher than the ones Romney proposed.

Time is running short on the April 1 deadline the governor set for passage of some sort of tax reform.

BAKER CITED two reasons

Guidance Fund Drive Recruiting

The Youth Guidance Committee of Greater Farmington is in the process of appointing 15 vice chairmen for various divisions of its fund-raising drive, according to finance chairman Donald Dames.

A dance is being planned for the vice chairmen and committee workers, Dames added.

The renewed Youth Guidance Committee is seeking \$30,000 for after-school basketball programs, a possible Boy Club and other projects aimed at giving youngsters a healthy outlet for their energy.

Dames said contributions are beginning to come in after a direct mail solicitation.

Volunteers may call Dames at 476-1800.

Marcella Neal Awarded Wilson Fellowship

Marcella E. Neal, 21, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Neal, of 30443 Rockshire, has been awarded a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for 1967-68.

A Wilson Fellow receives one academic year of graduate education with tuition and fees paid by the foundation and a living stipend of \$2,000.

Miss Neal will graduate as an English major from the University of Michigan in April. She is affiliated with Alpha Delta Pi.

Under the terms of the grant she must give serious consideration to college teaching. She has not chosen her graduate school.

She was graduated highest in her class from Farmington High School in 1963. In the summer of 1963 she traveled throughout England and the Continent as an alto member of the Michigan Youth Chorus.

She was also a counselor with the Chorus on a trip to Mexico.

Last semester, Miss Neal studied at the University of Sheffield in England.

THE PURPLE MARTIN NEWS reminds mosquito-pestered suburbia that it is time to put up apartment houses for these feathery helpers.

Each bird devours thousands of mosquitos per day. One proud chap wrote to say that he had devised a fine house for them out of two auto tires which he had divided into compartments and painted white. (Martins will only live in multiple dwellings.) The editor clipped his sails in a hurry by pointing out that in summer the apartments would become "rubber ovens" and what's more when the baby birds ventured out for air they would fall to their doom as no guard rails had been provided.

BRAVE NEW WORLD DEPARTMENT: Daughter came home for a week-end from her stewardess duties and dragged off to see the movie "Kaleidoscope". She had caught so many tantalizing glimpses of it while on duty crossing over the Atlantic, that she simply had to find out what was on the sound track.

BE WARNED THAT WHAT'S TO FOLLOW is pretty bad. In fact, it may be the pun to end all puns. And Mr. Suburbanite was willing to throw it away just like that 'cause he didn't think his wife caught it on the first bounce. Their household had been plagued by a series of mysterious happenings which consistently blamed on the family pet. Then an idea occurred to Mrs. S. "Maybe I have a poltergeist," she mused, mispronouncing it with a soft "g". "That's good," retorted her spouse, "it's about time you told that dog you're sorry."

MRS. S. GOT TRAPPED in a parking lot last Friday on the way to "sea in Texas." Cars blocked every exit much to her consternation. Not wanting to be late for the performance she pretended that her Mercury had wings on its heels and soared up and over a high curb and a snowbank. She hasn't yet taken it in for diagnosis of abdominal injuries.

SPEAKING OF "T. IN T." (and what a great show it was) our favorite line was from the letter the engineer was reading about the exploits of his many offspring. Mr. So-and-so had to have some teeth extracted—from his leg."

"THE REDHEAD DUCK CHASES at 40 miles an hour but can step up speed to 55 if chased," says a U. of M. professor of wildlife management. Red-heads always did need a little faster getaway time.

by Shirley Berger