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Farmington School District Looks At Teaching All Year

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By STEVE BARNABY

Should Farmington School District adopt a year-around school operation?

In what seems to be a growing trend in education, the district is considering following in the footsteps of such districts as Northville that have already experimented with the idea.

AFTER A year long study, a committee

composed of teachers, parents, school administrators and a board trustee has completed phase one

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--Supt. Van Ameyde

study on the feasibility of implementing a year-around school program.

The committee's primary recommendation was the 45-15 plan which calls for students to spend nine weeks in school four times a year, and receive three three-week vacations in between. There would also be a two-week shutdown in the summer for general maintenance on all school facilities.

Emma Makinen, committee spokesman, says the group studied three other systems along with 45-15 in 15 school districts, but found 45-15 to be the plan best suited to Farmington's needs.

"This plan, we think is the best for the people in the community, because it will allow them seasonal vacations plus a possible savings in running the schools," she says.

FOLLOWING phase one will be four subsequent study phases, one of which will be a voluntary pilot program. If results from the pilot program prove satisfactory to board trustees and school administrators, the 45-15 plan will be implemented.

An in-depth explanation of the program will be presented by Florence Panattoni, Northville curriculum director, in Farmington Junior High School on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

William Prisk, Farmington schools business manager, says there is the possibility of being able to close four elementary schools under the plan.

"We should prepare to close buildings and move students. If we don't there will be no economic benefit, and costs will remain the same," says Prisk.

MARINUS VAN Ameyde, superintendent, says that any plan has to consider public reaction to be successful.

"I am convinced of a greater expenditure of money under this plan. We can't sell the people on the issue of savings. We have to sell them on the fact that it is being done for the kids," says Van Ameyde.

He also warns that many teachers come from a two-income family, don't want the 25 per cent extra pay and would rather work only nine months.

William Corliss, trustee, called for the implementation of a longer school year, saying he felt there was too much to learn in the traditional 180 days.

"What was adequate when I went to school is no longer adequate...our education system is behind many in Europe because we don't utilize our time. We can't compare our district to those surrounding us but rather the entire world," says Corliss.

Although a September 1973 starting date has been suggested, William Perrin, board president, says that it is highly improbable because many questions have to be answered and problems ironed out before considering a starting date.

No Federal Sewer Money

Federal funding for a proposed separation of the combined storm - sanitary sewers in the City of Farmington is unlikely, according to a report submitted to the city council Monday.

The city applied for money under the Water Pollution Control Comprehensive Basin Planning Grant, an attempt to defray the estimated \$1.5 - \$2 million cost of the project.

Nelson Fabian, project coordinator for the office of environmental protection, said Farmington alone would not qualify for planning funds.

The Southwest Michigan Council of Governments, of which Farmington is a member, would probably qualify, according to Fabian. City Manager Robert Deadman said this would not help pay for the Farmington plans.

He cited the fact there is no complete survey of the system, and that the study would be useful to the local department in planning locally funded improvements.

THERE IS still a possibility that the city could get money for construction of the project, and planning costs may be included in this type of grant, Deadman said.

Tax Forms

Like Farmington Township, the two villages are worried about residents filling the federal income tax forms out correctly. To find out why, turn to

Page 3A

Robbers Caught

Action by the Farmington Township Police aided in the capture of several men who robbed a cab driver recently.

Page 4A

Champions Crowned

Observerland prep wrestlers competed in their respective league meets in preparation for the upcoming districts this Saturday. For the complete mat story, flip to today's sport section.

Page 7B

They're Realistic

Our reviewers saw two plays dealing in reality over the weekend, but what a difference! And in one case, one man's reality was another man's poison.

Page 13B

Fair Housing

A recent head of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission says it eventually may come to court testing. Her ideas on many facets of equal rights will be of interest to those who live in the suburbs. They are in today's Observing Life.

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WINTER FUN -- Tim McGee and Bill Hamilton take part in one of the most popular winter

activities in Farmington -- a pickup hockey game at the city pond. (Evert photo)

'Walk For Mankind' Money Is Divided Up

The reward for sore feet was divided Monday when the organizers of the "Walk for Mankind" split the proceeds between three local groups, as well as "Project Concern", the main sponsor of the event.

The "walk" was organized by the Farmington Area Jaycees last summer

primarily to help fund an international medical clinic. Volunteers walked up to 22 miles, with donors paying a pre-agreed amount for each mile walked.

THE PROJECT received a total of \$11,450, according to Neil Wilcox, of the Jaycees. "Project Concern" was to get 70 per cent of the

proceeds, with local groups getting 30 per cent.

The groups the Jaycees selected included the Farmington Area Advisory Council, the Youth Employment Service and the Farmington Community Center.

Each received \$1,145 from the "walk". Wilcox made a point of thanking the Farmington

Community Center, Mrs. Claire Orians and Jack Pealer for their contributions.

The center aided by providing manpower and refreshments along the walk path, while Mrs. Orians and Pealer spoke at the majority of the junior and senior high schools, recruiting the students who did the walking.

YES Controllers Laud Director

By DAN MCCOSH

Farmington Youth Employment Service Director Claire Orians received a vote of confidence from the group's steering committee Tuesday, following the attacks on the program by Frederick Lichtman, Farmington Township trustee.

The committee commended Mrs. Orians on a "job well done; she has the full support of the board of directors."

The board consists of representatives of each of the funding agencies: the school district, city, township and chamber of commerce.

Lichtman, an early critic of the

program, attacked the program's aim and the qualifications of the director during last week's township board meeting.

He particularly objected to the counseling given job-seekers at the agency and the escalating cost of the program.

The city council Monday received a report favorable to funding the city's share of the 1973-74, \$26,000 YES program which received a cold shoulder at the township board before.

In addition, the council was told of a suggestion to attempt to put YES under the direction of the Youth Assistance Program in an effort to get county funding.



VONDA VAN DYKE, Miss America of 1965, will be guest speaker in the John Wesley College's laboratory chapel in Farmington, 27000 North Farmington Rd., Sunday, Feb. 25 at 9 a.m.



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