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Future of 10 Mile School to be studied

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON — A special task force to study and evaluate possible future uses for Ten Mile and Cloverdale elementary schools was established by the Farmington School Board at its meeting Tuesday.

The meeting which was held in the Farmington Sr. High School auditorium drew a large crowd.

The residents who came were primarily interested in learning about the developments in the Ten Mile-Cloverdale situation and to further discuss the closing of Bond Elementary.

Specifically, the committee will investigate the feasibility of closing Ten Mile school for regular elementary programs and operations, transferring the special services activities from Cloverdale to Ten Mile, and the re-opening of Cloverdale for regular school operations.

THE TASK FORCE which will be organized by the administration is expected to include both professional educators and administrators from the district, as well as parents of children who may be affected.

In a memo to the school board school district business manager William Prisk said the study was being introduced to "permit a rough study to be made by the staff with the knowledge and sanction of the Board of Education, the knowledge of the staff of Ten Mile school and other schools affected, and the knowledge of the parents of students at Ten Mile Road school and other schools that might be affected."

Prisk said his staff has not made decision on the matter, nor were they prepared to offer recommendations to the school board or to the task force committee.

He did offer the board reasons why the investigation should be undertaken.

Among the twelve reasons listed:

- The district needs space for operational administration, storage of materials and supplies. Present school facilities used for storage are not adequate, according to Prisk and the district must rent commercial storage space.

He said the majority of the rented space would be given up if the district decides to use the recently closed Bond school for storage.

- The district needs larger, better equipped facilities for bus maintenance and for dispatching of buses and drivers.

- The Ten Mile Road and Raphael traffic and the crossing on Shawassee between Farmington Road and Warner are considered safety hazards.

- The playground facilities at Ten Mile is less than satisfactory, according to parents and staff at that school. The limited requirement for an outdoor play area for the SMI program could be provided by the Ten Mile play area.

The Prisk memo offered other reasons for beginning an investiga-

tion which included cost and class size factors among other things.

The Oakland County inter-school district will underwrite a portion, or all of the cost of renovating a school to meet the needs of the handicapped.

The task force committee will study the situation and make recommendations to the board, it does not have the authority to take any action on the matter itself.

Any decision in the matter will be made by the school board after the committee finishes its report.

Bond parents protest closing

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON — At least one organized group of citizens has begun a campaign to get the Farmington school board to re-open Bond elementary school.

The school was closed, in an attempt to offset a loss of revenue in the district due to the recent defeat of the millage.

A committee headed by Mrs. Beatrice Keeber gave petitions containing 517 signatures to the board at its Tuesday night meeting.

The committee, which began circulating its petitions on the Sunday before the Tuesday night meeting, collected signatures from students, parents, and other interested residents.

The committee called on the board to "set aside and rescind" the Aug. 6 school board action closing Bond school, to take all steps to immediately re-open the school and to amend the 1974-75 budget to accommodate the prompt re-opening of the school.

The committee also called upon the board to call another millage election at the earliest possible date.

ANOTHER RESIDENT Brian Sprague, president of the Oakland Subdivision Homeowners Association, presented a statement to the board during which he called for the same action.

Sprague also called on the board to organize a task force to study the utilization of school facilities and present a report on its findings. Later in the meeting the board, following the suggestion of the school administration, did set up a task force to study a different matter — the transfer of services between Ten Mile and Cloverdale elementary schools.

MRS. KEEBERS' committee also conducted a survey of people in the Bond school area, in an attempt to get a reading on their reaction to the closing of the school.

Approximately 76 people responded to the questionnaire which volunteers distributed in the area.

According to their tabulations, 78 percent of the people tabulated were not satisfied with the action taken in closing the school.

A majority — 66 percent of the people also felt that more across-board cuts were preferable to the closing on any one school.

Many of the people responding to the questionnaire also indicated that they were concerned with the safety factors involved with busing their children to alternate schools, and suggested that the buses enter the subdivisions to pick up and discharge the children.

Mrs. Keeber said, "We received answers from families which represented 48 percent of the children

who would be in Bond school, as well as other families with no children in school at present and residents who are concerned with the allocation of their tax dollar."

The board also received letters from parents and subdivision associations expressing concern over the action. They asked for assurances that provisions would be made for safely transferring students to and from school, that equipment bought for the Bond school children by the PTO would be distributed to the schools which Bond children will be attending, and that class size in the school attended by these children would not be disproportionately increased.

A former board trustee Lillian Allen defended the board and its handling of the Bond school situation.

She called on the people in the audience to see the issue in the broad scope as the school board must rather than looking at it through the narrow scope, as it affects their own children.

"The board members had to make a tough decision," she said, "and they had to make that decision on the basis of what was good for the entire district."

"The closing of Bond school will help the district maintain some of the programs it needs and the Bond school children will benefit from that change just as the other children in the district will."

"It means that Bond children will be able to have that many more textbooks, it means that Bond students will be able to have art consultants, it means that they will be able to have music teachers, and all the other things we want to maintain for all the children in the district."

OTHER RESIDENTS at the meeting were concerned about cancelling after-school activities in the schools.

Assistant superintendent of schools Lawrence Freedman said the administration was looking into the idea of allowing Scouts and other groups to use the school buildings, but only during the time the school office would be open.

He said it would mean that many groups may have to have shorter meetings, since the school offices close at 4:30 p.m.

He also said that group leaders would have to talk to the principal of the individual school, so the group would not interfere with the cleaning schedules.



Reaching the sun

Like Jack's beanstalk, a sunflower seed planted by Marnie Leonard, 23705 W. Newall Circle, just seems to keep growing and growing. Five-year-old Marnie is standing beside the plant which has already reached a height of 14 feet, and is still growing. (Photo by Fran Evert)

Pulte files against Hills

By DIANE HUBEL
FARMINGTON HILLS — A 320-acre multiple family development may be in the near future for northwest Farmington Hills if Pulte Homes Inc. wins its suit against the city.

Pulte Homes recently filed suit against Farmington Hills after a

rezoning request for a tract of land on Twelve Mile and Drake was turned down by the Hills city council.

In June the corporation asked the council to rezone the land from a RA-1 single family to a PRD planned residential.

The request, which was met with opposition from residents in the area, was denied by the council at that time.

FOLLOWING the denial, William Pulte, of Pulte Homes Inc., said he would take the city to court over the matter.

Recently lawyers for the corporation filed suit in Oakland County Circuit Court charging that the rezoning denial was unconstitutional and asking for a change in the zoning.

Now, however, rather than asking for a PR-2 rezoning, the corporation is asking the court to grant it a RC-2, multiple dwelling, zoning.

According to John Shaeen, a lawyer for the West Bloomfield-

based development corporation, zoning procedures in Farmington Hills have forced the firm to request the higher density zoning.

The firm must approve not only the zoning but also the site plans for planned residential developments.

"Even if the court did grant us the PRD zoning it would still be up to the city to decide whether or not we can start building," Shaeen said.

"The planned residential zoning approval is entirely up to their discretion. There is no book of standards or rules which we can follow. The whole thing is left up to their discretion."

According to Shaeen the corporation already has approximately \$3 million tied up in the project.

SOME OF THAT \$3 million is committed to the city for use as a sewer system which would service the northwest portion of the city, as well as the development, if it gets off the ground.



Fashion Trip

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' special fall fashion tabloid section is included with this week's issue. The trends for fall in words and pictures take the reader on a journey into the world of fashion for every place and every mood. Take the fashion trip to parts well known like Paris and Moscow or stay at home in the good ole' USA.

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Collections Please, Sir!
This week, your Observer & Eccentric carrier will begin collecting for August issues of your hometown newspaper. Please pay him the ... you'll be assuring yourself of a continuing insight into the happenings within your community ... and helping our "justice executives" earn money and recognition for their carrier services.