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Twenty Five Cents

School board awaiting student death report

By RON GARENNSKI

It has been 27 days since the electrocution at East Junior High School, and the Farmington School District still is waiting for an official report on the conditions which led to a 13-year-old student's death.

"I think we made it clear at the last school board meeting that when the district receives official reports of the electrocution, they will be made public, but we have not yet received any official report," said school board trustee Gary Lichtman.

"But I can tell you, as your elected representative, that this board and the school district have done everything that can possibly be done to correct these things. They have done a good job, up to this point, correcting the cited (by the department of labor) violations," Lichtman said at Tuesday night's board meeting.

Board President William Corliss also said the district was doing everything it could to make sure that an incident like this would never happen again in the school district.

"Almost every member of this board has children in Farmington schools. Nothing we can say or do now can change what has happened. All we can do now is do our damndest to make sure that we don't slip back into the complacency that might have been the case before in the schools," Corliss said.

presence at the meeting that the incident was an accident.

"We had an accident, and the death of a student resulted from that accident. I think I can speak for the entire district when I say we are very sorry that it happened," Prisk said.

"At this time, we do not have any results of any investigation of the incident. But we are advised by the Farmington Hills Police that there may be criminal charges."

The Farmington Hills Police Department sent the results of its investigation into the electrocution to the Oakland County prosecutor's office last week. A spokesman for the prosecutor said that the department is reviewing the report and may have an opinion sometime next week.

"The school district has handled this incident with as much restraint and foresight as it could manage to put together to see to it that this incident has been handled in a forthright, honest and sincere manner," Prisk continued.

"Things like this take time. It is unfair for anyone to sit and think that we have done nothing about the accident. Everything we could have done to correct anything wrong has been done. We want to make everybody sure that this type of tragic incident will never happen again."

Responding to questions asked by a parent, Lichtman said there were qualified personnel on the scene seconds after Robert Kortzyk was electrocuted.

"THE YOUTH had emergency treatment within five minutes of the tragedy. I personally think that our school staff and the City of Farmington Hills should be commended for the job they did," Lichtman said.

Commenting on another question, Lichtman explained that there were supervisors in the shop area when the youth was electrocuted, and that there had been maintenance of the equipment.

"We set under the concept of total responsibility. There is a criminal investigation being conducted by the police department. Criminal charges might stem from that investigation, and if they do, we do not think it would be fair to make any further explanations until we receive that final police report."

"We asked for that report as recently as Monday, and still the Farmington Hills Police won't give it to us," Lichtman said.

Prisk presented to the board Tuesday night a list of 25 citations issued by the bureau of safety and regulation for violations of the state's occupational safety and health act.

These violations were found as a result of the department's investigation of the East Junior High shop and cafeteria areas which took place last Tuesday.

The board reviewed the anticipated citations and now has until Friday, Feb. 13 to either appeal or comply with the citations.

The district was fined \$608 in civil penalties and given 400 days of probation by which to correct any violations of the law.

According to Prisk, most of the violations already have been corrected.



The dials on this large sterilizer at Botsford General Hospital tell central services supervisor Mrs. Constance DeClercq temperature

and pressure reached and how soon the supplies will be ready to remove from the large vault. (Staff photo by Harry Maute)

How Botsford hospital combats infections

By CORINNE ABATT

To those of us who occasionally are in hospitals to visit a sick friend or have to see an appendix removed, the words central services don't mean much.

To the well-being and health of the patients, however, the work of central services means a great deal. One of the great overall responsibilities of central services is infection control—seeing that the organisms which are playing havoc with one patient aren't passed on to others.

Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills has one of the most exemplary and

sophisticated central services departments in the area judging from the number of persons who regularly visit the department to observe techniques.

"It's not like a game from Venezuela here nor long ago," says Mrs. Constance DeClercq, central services supervisor at Botsford. "We also do some programs in training representatives for equipment manufacturers."

"It was after World War II that hospitals began to realize that the work of central services departments do its own special thing, it would be better done under one department.

Central service departments have been in the last 15 years. Prior to that special areas did their trays and instruments on the floors. Central services was basically a storeroom.

Now, at Botsford, every piece of medical and surgical equipment used in the 210-bed hospital goes through Mrs. DeClercq's department.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY of central services to make sure all equipment can be reused and to clean and sterilize all that can.

The rooms which take in the soiled mate-

rials and those which dispense the clean are completely separate, even to having negative air in the area which handles the soiled contaminated supplies and positive air in the area dispensing supplies.

Mrs. DeClercq feels fortunate to have been in on the planning and design of the department when Botsford General was built in 1955. This allowed her to design the procedures and work flow patterns which have proved so efficient over the years and to have the equipment so vital to effective infection control.

This includes a number of large autoclaves (sterilizers) which process various kinds of equipment depending on the process used.

For instance, metal and lenses are sterilized in one that uses heat and pressure—270 degrees and 60 pounds of pressure. Another next to it handles bottles of water by gravity displacement and a third uses a combination of gases, ethylene and freon, for sterilizing rubber and plastic.

Some of these autoclaves are walk-in size to accommodate several cart loads of equipment at one time.

Each is controlled and the record of each application kept for a period of seven years so Mrs. DeClercq can at any time check the performance of her machines during that period of time.

The centralization of all of these hospital functions Mrs. DeClercq says "allows us to keep constant control and inventory at all times."

She walks to a storage area to demonstrate and pulls out a package wrapped in light green hospital linen.

"This is a liver biopsy tray. It is good for four weeks."

She puts her finger on a tape stuck on top.

"This is the date it was done, the autoclave used, the cycle it was run at plus the expiration date. If it is not used by the expiration date, it will be done again."

She speaks of minimum standards hospitals are required to maintain saying, "My requirements are much higher."

In spite of the fact that the autoclave dials register what is going on, temperatures reached, time on pressure and the like, Mrs. DeClercq double checks them.

She places vials of the most difficult organisms to kill in fresh and then has them checked to be sure the treatment has been effective each day.

In the autoclave using steam Mrs. DeClercq says, "We use sterovetropolis, the spore that is hardest to kill. In the gas we use bacillus B."

IF FOR ANY reason these machines are not killing the organisms in the vial, every thing placed in them could be immediately identified and redone. A highly uniform procedure, but easy to remedy.

Mrs. DeClercq, a director of nursing at two hospitals before she took her present position, says, "I'm a good organizer."

She opens a book she has prepared complete with description and her personal photographs of each job in the 22-person department.

She trains each employee in each job so that the carefully planned work flow pat-

terns are not interrupted when someone is out from work. Those who work in the soiled area never go into the clean, however, on any given shift.

One of the machines which particularly pleases Mrs. DeClercq is an automatic washer large enough to handle the carts on which patients are transported. It has two doors allowing equipment to be put in the contaminated area and taken out in the clean area.

"We use this floor loader washer for wheel chairs, dietary carts, patient carts, crutches, bed pans and they come out clean and decontaminated."

As president of the Greater Detroit Central Service Society, a group of people like herself who represent hospitals in the tri-county area, Mrs. DeClercq is well aware of the problems which many in a similar position face.

"Until a year ago our group was the largest in the country, even though we are only three counties out of a whole state. Now, we're second. Regardless of size, we find that in our group we have common problems. Communication is probably the biggest."

Mrs. DeClercq uses her camera to help solve that problem with her employees. She has made a taped description of how the department operates and has slide films to go with it.

"This is an auto-invasive training program done just with my own talent in the department and they are wonderful."

She has used this tape-slide show in a

Lengthy ballots predicted; cities' clerks preparing

By RON GARENNSKI and STEVE BARNABY

It may take Farmington area residents longer this year to use in November's presidential primary election if the list of political parties qualifying for a place on the ballot continues to grow.

If the number of minority parties exceeds the voting machine's limit of nine, then city clerks around the state will be forced to return to the paper ballot method of voting, say area city clerks.

"It looks like that may be the way we'll have to do it in Farmington if the number keeps increasing," says Nedra Vane, Farmington's city clerk. "If parties keep qualifying, there won't be room on voting machines for them and we'll be forced to use paper ballots again."

enough levers to handle the expanded ballot," Mrs. Vane continues.

"Since there won't be room for new returns, we will have to resort back to paper ballots and that is something we have not done in years. Even punch card ballots soon may not accommodate the primary's requirements," she says.

IN THE PRESIDENTIAL primary, residents vote straight ticket, choosing only the party of their choice. Since the voting machines have nine levers, the maximum number of parties appearing on the ballot are nine.

Mrs. Vane, along with many other clerks around the state, believes a lot of persons are unaware of the seriousness of the problem. If the paper ballots must be used, it will take several minutes longer to vote by checking the paper ballots instead of just flipping a lever on the machine, she says.

The results would take even longer to tally.

"If we must use these ballots, it will take election workers hours longer to tabulate the votes," she says.

In addition to the paper ballot's inherent delay in tallying results, the system also would cost more money. Both Farmington and the Hills discarded their paper ballot machines when they switched to voting machines several years ago.

Rate law requires that paper ballots must be sealed in special bags and then placed into boxes before they are tallied.

Another law states that each community using paper ballots can have only 400 registered voters in each precinct. Both cities would have to consider restricting their communities to comply with the law.

So in order to prevent the cities for paper balloting, the city clerks would have to purchase new equipment.

The election factor affecting the tallying of election results would be confusion caused by a "different system," especially after area voters have become accustomed to the voting machines, says Mrs. Vane.

"There would be several problems. Workers and voters would be confused and it definitely would add to tallying time by using individual voting lots of two minutes with machines would be increased, causing delays as well as inconvenience and frustration for those waiting in line to vote."

In an effort to gauge its effectiveness with handling the confusion posed by the new Michigan system, Farmington Hills will experiment with punch card voting machines in the March 23 county commission election.

SMALL CITY CLERK Floyd Cairns says nine districts will use 16 punch card machines.

"The final system works out, we will consider changing over entirely to punch cards," Cairns says.

The city is considering the punch card machines because of the lengthy ballot for the primary, in which Cairns estimates there will be at least 14 parties on the ballot.

It would cost Farmington Hills \$70,000 to equip the city with the punch card machines, but Cairns thinks he can cut that figure to about \$70,000 by reducing the number of punch card machines used.

To do this, he estimates it would take only 170 machines to adequately equip the precincts.

"Late-night election results would be a thing of the past," he explains. "Since computers counting the totals can process 400 cards in a few seconds, we could tally only two minutes to total the results. In previous presidential and gubernatorial elections, the final counts haven't been tallied until 3 or 4 a.m."

The final number of parties on the ballot will not be known until the qualifying deadline in June, but both city clerks hope the balloting system will speed counting and eliminate the ballot crisis facing the state.

County election turnout is low

Democrat Souleil Haas will face Republican Dennis Murphy in the March 23 special election for the 2nd district county commissioner's seat.

That was the decision of voters in last Tuesday's election, which saw Mrs. Haas beat out Frederick Morehead and Murphy defeat LaVerne DeWard in the primary runoff. The candidates are vying to fill a seat recently vacated by Lew Coy.

Voter turnout was low in the Farmington Hills precincts of the district with a little more than one per cent of eligible voters

turning out. The Hills has four precincts in the 2nd district.

Mrs. Haas garnered 271 votes to win her primary. In the Hills 30 voters cast votes for her. Murphy received 228 votes with 27 Hills residents casting their support for him.

All total 67 of 9,100 Hills voters turned out.

Farmington Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns said that by 7 p.m. Tuesday night some of the precincts had recorded only one or two votes.

After-school programs offered

After-school recreation programs are being offered at two elementary schools in the Farmington area.

Wendell Elementary School, 2889 Poppermill, Farmington Hills, is beginning classes today which will run through March 11.

Interested persons can register at the first class session.

Beginning at 2:30 p.m. is 7-8-1st painting for students in the fourth through sixth grades. This is a four-week class costing \$2.

All other classes are for seven weeks and cost \$1.

At 4:30 p.m. a jazz dancing class will be offered to the fourth through sixth grades. Also offered at 4:30 p.m. is arts and crafts for students from kindergarten through third grade.

At 5:30 p.m. a beginning gymnastic class will be offered for students from kindergarten through third grade.

An intermediate gymnastic class is being offered for kindergarten through third graders at 6:30 p.m. Basic drawing for grades four through six also is being offered.

Drama is being offered at 7:30 p.m. for students in grades three through six.

After school recreation classes are being offered at Eisenhower School, 3015 Eisenhower, beginning Wednesday, Feb. 11, and continuing for six weeks.

Registrations will be accepted in the Farmington area Recreation Office, 2335 11 Mile, Farmington Hills. Registrations also will be accepted at the first class meeting from 3 p.m.-4 p.m. in Eisenhower School.

A gymnastic class is being offered for

students in kindergarten through second grade at 2:30 p.m. Arts and crafts will be offered at 2:30 p.m. for students in third through sixth grade.

At 6:30 p.m. a gymnastic class is being offered for students in third through sixth grade. Also at 4:30 p.m. is an art class for students in kindergarten through third grade. Ocular lessons will be at 4:30 p.m. for students in the third through sixth grades.

At 5:30 p.m. open gym will be for grades four through six. An open gym will be for

students in the seventh through ninth grades at 6:30 p.m.

Also at 6:30 p.m. is a basic drawing class for students in the third through sixth grades.

Macramé will be offered to adults from 7 p.m.-8 p.m.

Adults can get in on the action at 7:30 p.m. by participating in adult volleyball for an hour. Also running for an hour and beginning at 7:30 p.m. is body dancing.

A class in jewelry and pendants will be from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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