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Teachers say OK to new 2-year contract

By LYNN ORR

Farmington Education Association (FEA) members ratified a new two-year contract with the Farmington Board of Education by an overwhelming majority Friday night, despite the fact that salary increases failed to match some of those attained in other Oakland County school districts this fall.

FEA members voted 632 yes and 83 no in a 94 per cent turnout of membership in the ratification vote. School board trustees are expected to vote on ratification at Tuesday night's regularly scheduled meeting.

The new contract calls for a five per cent salary increase over the 1977-78 school year, and a 7.1 per cent increase during 1978-79.

"The whole schedule has been improved over two years by 14 per cent," said Ken Barry, FEA president. A complicated salary schedule, with increases for each of the four semesters covered under the contract, works out to a 14 per cent overall increase.

Although Barry admitted the salary increases are less than some of those attained in other Oakland County districts, some of the fringes are sure to please the FEA membership, he said. These include: New caps on second-class size plus a formula that provides a \$50 per student payment to teachers whose class exceeds either individual or contract caps; a \$5,000

increase in term life insurance to \$25,000 in the new contract; an improved health insurance plan; and maintenance of the much-discussed health insurance plan.

A new salary schedule calls for a four per cent increase in the first semester and a three per cent increase in the second semester of the 1977-78 school year. The first semester of the 1978-79 year will see a similar increase in the two semesters.

One of the reasons behind the semester breakdown is a severe cutback in special education categorical funding received by the district this year, Barry said.

"This allows for our contract not to put the screws to the board," he said. "We're taking a lesser percentage the first year and a greater percentage the second year."

At the end of the two-year contract, a teacher with a BA and no seniority would earn an average of \$10,900, while a teacher with an MA and five years of experience would earn an average of about \$17,000.

More than 60 per cent of Farmington teachers now are in the top half of the salary schedule, Barry said.

Teachers in Troy received a 7.75 per cent increase each year of the two-year contract, while West Bloomfield teachers settled for a seven per cent increase the first year and a sliding cost of living adjustment of between 3-7 per cent for the second year.

Teachers salaries in Farmington account for about 60 per cent of the budget, according to Robert Coleman, personnel director and board negotiator.

"Generally we believe that it's a fair contract," Barry said. "We did get one thing that our teachers were adamant about, and that is our first-class health insurance."

Board negotiators had pressed for an alternate insurance plan or that teachers pick up the cost difference to carry insurance through the Michigan Education Special Services Association.

The MESSA Super Med II insurance provides many benefits and fuller health care benefits than most plans, Barry said.

The new contract provides for maintenance of the insurance plan fully paid by the school board.

COLEMAN was pleased with a new clause that calls for teachers on leave to notify the district whether they plan to return to work the following year by March 1, rather than Aug. 1 as stated in last year's contract.

(Continued on page 2A)



Strolling through art

Fr. Walter Zebrowski, director of Orchard Lake Schools Art Gallery, and Marlowe Belanger, Oakland County cultural commissioner, strolled through

the school grounds recently to take a look at some Polish art. For a glimpse of what they saw, turn to Page 3A.

Error corrected

It was incorrectly reported in the Sept. 15 edition of this paper that Robert Andovar had been eliminated in the primary from the upcoming election for three seats on the Farmington Hills city council.

Andovar came in eighth in the balloting of the primary and is a candidate in the Nov. election.

Hills meeting agenda

A special meeting of the Farmington Hills city council is scheduled for 8 p.m. tonight at Farmington Hills City Hall on Eleven Mile at Middlebelt.

A rezoning request by Ben Marks, postponed last week in a controversial discussion, heads the agenda.

•Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C82-96 (ZR No. 6-2-77). The property is located at Pasadena Park subdivision on the northwest corner of Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Rd. The proponent is Ben Marks who requests rezoning from RA-2 to OS-1 and from RA-2 to P-1.

•A necessity hearing for construction of sewers in Elm Grove Valley and Noble Brook Farms Plat No. 1 and 2.

•Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C82-103 (ZR No. 27-6-77). The property is located in Muer Estates on the north side of Twelve Mile east of Hollister. The Farmington Hills planning commission requests a rezoning from RA-1 to RC-2 multiple family zoning.

•Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C82-105 (ZR No. 28-6-77). The property is located

in Muer Estates on the north side of Twelve Mile east of Alycekey. Proponent Albert Siefman requests rezoning from RA-1 to RC-2 multiple family zoning.

•Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C82-106 (ZR No. PC28-6-77). The property is located on the north side of Twelve Mile east of Alycekey. The proponent Farmington Hills planning commission requests rezoning from RA-1 and RA-2 to RC-2 multiple family zoning.

•Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C82-107 (ZR No. 31-6-77). The property is located between Nine Mile and the I-96 expressway in the southwest corner of Section 28. The proponent Leonard G. Siegal requests rezoning from RA-3 to RC-1 multiple family zoning.

•Consideration of introduction of amendatory ordinance C82-102 (ZR No. 26-6-77). The property is located on the north side of Thirteen Mile between Haggerty and Halstead. Proponent Richard Kughn requests rezoning from RA-1 to RP-2 planned residential zoning.

•Two additional considerations will be given to Farmington Hills zoning ordinances C82-1 and C82-J.

PLUS needs YOU

Youngsters wait for partners

There are some youngsters in Farmington who need an adult willing to be their friend. Some are faced with coping with their parents' divorce. Others are trying to handle their rebellion against the adult world or rejection by their own age group.

These are the youngsters that are referred to PLUS, a volunteer program that is sponsored by Farmington Youth Assistance. Less than a year old, the program has three volunteers and three youngsters matched together with one volunteer and 12 youngsters waiting for partners.

To alleviate the situation and to be able to reach out to more youngsters, the program is looking for men and women volunteers to attend an introductory meeting at 7:30 p.m., Oct

5, in the Ten Mile Community School, 32789 Ten Mile, between Orchard Lake and Power Road.

AMONG THE VOLUNTEERS that program planners are hoping will turn out that day are men between 25-40 years old.

"They seem to be the ones most in need," said Farmington Youth Assistance Caseworker John Pinkerton.

Women and men who are excluded from this age bracket are welcome to volunteer, though, stressed PLUS chairman Art Micheli.

Volunteers will be working with youngsters between the ages of six and seventeen years old, according to Micheli. The youngster child now en-

rolled in the program is eight years old.

Parents, counselors and social workers refer the youngsters to the PLUS program. In the program, the youngster learns to keep up a friendship with an adult, who isn't presented as a replacement for a parent.

Part of the training process for volunteers screens volunteers, as well. The eight hour training session is broken down into four two-hour classes which include discussions of family relationships, communications, assertiveness training and role playing. The training session follow an orientation session and lead up to a screening process which matches adults with youngsters.

TRAINING IS DONE by persons who are qualified in social work and who share past experiences with the youngsters so they know what to expect, according to Micheli.

If the volunteers are unable to stick out the red tape and training sessions, then they screen themselves out of the program.

Another method of making sure that the volunteers are suitable for the program is included in the confidential application for volunteers. Three references are required and volunteers explain in writing their interest in the program.

Information garnered from the application also helps the program to match volunteers with children. Age, sex, hobbies and interests are taken into account during the process.

Volunteers are gathered from all walks of life for the program which is part of an Oakland County wide program to help children who are distressed but aren't juvenile delinquents.



JOHN PINKERTON

Hills seeks award nominees

Good neighbors can get some city wide recognition when Farmington Hills rolls out the red carpet at its Appreciation and Recognition Awards Night Oct 27.

That next door neighbor who has gone beyond the call of duty to make the block or the entire community a nicer place to live is eligible to be nominated for the Good Neighbor Award. Maybe someone has volunteered time and effort to the community. That person is eligible to be named the Good Neighbor of 1977.

In 75 words or less, Farmington Hills residents can nominate their good neighbor for the recognition. Nominations should be received on or before Sept. 28.

Another award up for its second anniversary is one directed at organizations which have volunteered extra time and expertise to the city. Awarded at the same time as the

Good Neighbor Award, the organization award is given to community, civic and service groups that have contributed to the beautification, clean-up and betterment of the city.

AWARDS will be given at 7:30 p.m. Oct 27, in the Farmington Hills City Administrative Building, Orchard Lake Road and Eleven Mile.

Last year's Good Neighbor Awards winners included Ray Briggs, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond F. Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Czubiak, Nancy Kurljian and Mrs. W. J. Spicer.

Organizations which were recognized last year included Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, Botsford Garden Club and the Farmington Area Jaycee's.

Send the applications to Farmington City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile, 48024.



Flower artistry

The dried flower arrangements Van Askounes shows is but one of several kinds of artistry the teacher shares with participants in Farmington Community Center workshops and classes. The first one coming up is called "Harvest Fine Scarecrows," whimsical hang-ups that will be created on Sept. 26, with an option of a morning or evening session. Others on the fall agenda are ideas for your Christmas door, and a session called "Pine Cone Artistry." Registrations are taken now, by calling the center at 477-8464.

inside

Classified	Section B
Community Calendar	3B
Editorials	14A
Sports	Section B
Suburban Life	1,2B

The second annual Birmingham Auto Preview Show begins tomorrow, Tuesday, September 20, at the Birmingham Ice Sports Arena. Section A of today's Eclectic carries all the information you'll need to know concerning the show. A companion story appears on the back page of today's edition.