

# Farmington Enterprise & Observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

## New Contract Gives Teachers 10% Hike, Binding Arbitration

By HOWARD KOHN

School negotiators are taking a short vacation this weekend after settling 1969-70 teaching contracts.

The two bargaining teams lasted through an exhaustive 21-hour marathon from 9 a.m. Wednesday to 6 a.m. Thursday to reach agreement. Teachers won a 10 per cent salary hike—keeping in range of recent increases.

Teachers also won a key concession on binding arbitration of grievances.

BUT TEACHERS compromised considerably on their demands for absolute limits on class size and for a dismissal article in the agency shop.

The contract package must be ratified by the Farmington Education Association (FEA) and by the Farmington Board of Education. Approval is expected to come Sept. 8 and with little trouble.

More than 500 teachers cheered

news of the settlement at a hastily-called meeting Thursday morning. FEA President Roger Allen, who headed the teachers' bargaining unit, expressed relief and satisfaction at conclusion of the months-long dickering.

Farmington had not been regarded as a "critical" school district even though the FEA had voted to strike if no contract was ready by today. At Thursday's meeting, FEA members overwhelmingly removed the strike ultimatum.

ECONOMIC issues were the last to be settled. Both sides finally reached accord on salary at the expected 10 per cent plateau.

Salary schedules will be \$7,450 starting and \$12,050 maximum for a bachelor's degree and \$8,050 starting and \$12,550 maximum for a master's.

Percentage-wise the bachelor's wage represents a graduated 9.1 per cent jump and the master's

9.9 per cent.

Teachers accrued added dividends in the fringe benefits package, winning raises in both life and medical insurance policies.

And teachers will gain extra vacation time in the school calendar—two weeks for Christmas and one for Easter.

BUT IN THE non-economic issues, where the two sides debated basic contract rights, the board granted only one major concession.

Next year FEA grievances will be adjudicated by a neutral party instead of by the board of education. Teachers had fought against school board interpretations of the contract and pointed out their grievances had always been turned down in the FEA's five-year history.

Grievances will take the usual route—going from principal to superintendent to school board. But now they'll also go to the Association of

Arbitrators, a state-based agency which supplies arbitrators.

"This makes our contract much stronger," Allen noted. "We feel we'll get a fairer interpretation from a neutral party."

Almost all school districts in the Detroit area will have binding arbitration for grievances next year.

LeRoy Bartman, spokesman for the board team, predicted "it won't really have too much effect one way or the other."

BUT THE TEACHERS gave up on their demands for an absolute maximum on the number of students in specific classes.

The board did agree to install teacher aides in the 19 elementary schools to work primarily with kindergarten and first grade classes.

"This was a token compromise," Allen admitted. "But it will help

at a critical period of learning."

Teachers also wanted to insert a dismissal clause in the agency shop, giving them power to fire anyone who didn't pay FEA dues. But the board completely rejected the clause.

Negotiators had earlier reconciled the controversial issue of teacher evaluation.

Teachers consented to evaluation by third echelon administrative assistants, newly hired for this year. In return the board agreed to limit evaluatory duties of department chairman.

Teachers feared departmental chairman would be ineligible for the FEA if they were forced to issue official criticism of teachers.

These final crucial items were settled with the arbitrating on influence of Gordon Lee, representing the State Board of Mediation.

### today's hot line what's inside

#### A Watchful Eye

The City of Farmington is considering a new ordinance for deluxe multiple developments. Other developments are being watched closely by the Farmington Citizens Association, especially a proposal for a donut shop on Grand River.

Page 2A

#### Endangered Children

Parents with children attending Gill School have appeared before the Farmington Board of Education again requesting action on an annual problem. The board's response is reported in today's issue.

Page 4A

#### Last Chance For Trees

The deadline has been extended for Farmington Township to order trees. There are some left which will be sold on a first-come first-serve basis up until Sept. 10. A convenient order blank is printed inside.

Page 6A

#### Fritz On Preps

Michigan's H.O. "Fritz" Crisler was one of the greatest football coaches and athletic directors in the history of college sports. He's in an expert's position, then, to reflect on what's happening in the professionalization of amateur athletics. W. W. Edgar got an exclusive interview.

Page 1B

#### On Stage!

Community theater—what type of plays should be on stage? What new plays are available for children's theater? These and many other questions were discussed last week during the national meetings of two theater associations. Sue Shaughnessy reports and Artist Glenna Merillat illustrates the trends.

Page 6B

#### On Being Tasco'd

Tasco, an area artist famed for his caricatures, has a gentler approach to his style of portraits than (say) a Herblock. Sue Shaughnessy talked to the artist at work and sat for her own drawing.

Page 1B

#### O'Neil's Troubles

Some colleagues admire James O'Neil, State Board of Education member from Livonia, but many of his fellow Republicans also think he's hurting the party with his political attacks in Lansing. Don Hoenschel has an authoritative view of O'Neil's troubled career.

Page 6B

Amusements .....	6B
Bowling .....	3B
Churches in Action .....	4-5B
Classified Want Ads .....	Sec. C
Feature Page .....	1B
Sports — Prep and Pro .....	3B
World of Women .....	2B



TEENS CONTRIBUTE — Dick Sundquist (above) places stones in the garden to prepare the community center for opening. Sanding chairs (below) are two boys from Westfalen, Germany, who pitched in during their 10-week visit in Farmington. The boys are Jule, five years, (left) and Steven, seven years.

(Evert photos)

## Center Officially Opens On Sunday

The Community Center will hold its official opening Sunday, Sept. 7.

The official opening follows 14 months after the Farmington area started a fund-raising drive to renovate and maintain for the first year the former estate of Luman Goodenough for the community.

In July 1968, the drive was started with a goal set at \$50,000. In early May of this year, the goal was topped with collections totaling \$55,088.

SINCE THEN, Mrs. Alberta Taylor has been hired as the center's executive director and Clarence Stohl has been working as interior decoration coordinator.

During the past few months a constant corps of volunteers has been steadily pouring into the center to prepare it for the official opening.

The center at 24705 Farmington Rd. will be open from 1-4 p.m. Special invitations have been sent to government leaders and donors but all members of the community are urged to attend the open house.

A call for curtain makers was issued this week to get the center ready for its unveiling. Stohl asks women to join the seamstress bri-

gade on Sept. 2 at 10 a.m. Each should bring a thimble and sandwich.

Curtains are being made from the many bolts of material donated earlier by Mrs. Louise Kirk.

FARMINGTON Jaycees are still painting the main rooms, North Farmington Kiwanis Club is painting one of the bedrooms, and local teenagers under the direction of Mrs. Claire Orians have been busy with mops and paint brushes.

Boy Scouts have been helping with the garden work and parking facilities are under construction.

Mrs. Harry Stultz is in charge of volunteer services. Anyone who can donate some time is asked to call her at 476-9387. Mrs. Taylor's number is 474-6873.

The community project was prompted when heirs of the Goodenough estate offered the 20-acre mansion, "Longacre," to the community in February 1968, provided that the community raise the funds for renovations and operating expenses.

Of the \$50,000 budget, \$33,000 is allotted for the operating expenses—an annual burden assumed by the center's board of directors. Fund-raising events will be held each year to finance the operation.

## Farmington Offers Ski Instruction

While it isn't exactly skiing weather, registrations for ski driver education, a class for classes and scores of others overweight women, and a parent's course in sex education 6:30 and 8 p.m. at Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee.

Recreation, besides skiing, includes beginners' Spanish guitar, dancing, stilmastice, and adult education, announces a wide variety of course offerings. Band, decoupage, acrylic and for the fall semester. Selections of oil painting, water colors, range from business to fine arts, sketching and drawing are listed language, recreation, avocation, in the fine arts department, health and safety.

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HOMEMAKING provides such old favorites as cake decorating, drapery making and other sewing, wood finishing, hospitality, and upholstery. Amateur radio, electronics, radio and TV trouble shooting, and pilots' ground school will appeal to the avocationalists. A number of classes co-sponsored with other organizations are also available and are described in the brochure still obtainable at Howell's administration building office.

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