

# Farmington School District seeks substitutes

Full-time teaching jobs are still scarce but substitute positions in Farmington high schools are begging for applicants.

That's the word from Robert Coleman, director of employee relations for the Farmington School District. Industrial education classes, science

and math in the high schools need substitute teachers who are qualified to give instruction in those subjects.

Physical education classes for boys need men instructors who are willing to be substitute teachers, he says.

One of the reasons for the shortage of substitutes in the secondary schools is the shrinking number of teachers graduating from college, according to Coleman.

As teaching positions dwindle, colleges are cutting down on the number of graduates it has for the field, Coleman said.

"PERMANENT positions are difficult to find, but it's harder to find substitute teachers," he said.

Although Coleman's elementary substitute force is holding firm with 71 on-call teachers, his secondary school rolls are down to 42 persons who will answer his 6:30 a.m. call to work.

When Coleman's secretary, Nancy Kozma, calls persons on the list of secondary school substitute teachers, she is in contact with a force that lends its abilities to as many as three school districts.

Since each district in Oakland County shares Farmington's difficulty in obtaining qualified secondary substitute teachers, the schools find themselves engaging in some competition.

While some substitutes work for as many as three districts others prefer to work within one area.

"It's great when you have substitutes who just work for you," said Coleman.

Since substitutes are given short notice before they are expected in school, most find it convenient to work in districts near their home, according to Coleman.

"Generally, a lot of our substitutes live in the Farmington area," he said.

ONCE a teacher is on the Farmington rolls as a substitute he or she is assigned to teach in the area of certification or college minor.

For each day's work, a substitute teacher in the Farmington district is paid \$30. If the teacher remains on the same assignment for more than 10 days, the daily rate is lifted to \$48.

Some substitutes teach for personal satisfaction rather than financial remuneration, according to Coleman.

And some subs prefer to teach certain subjects and avoid others, he said.

"A lot of people who substitute enjoy getting into the classroom. They like to decide if they want to work. Once they do that, the responsibility is waiting for them."

## Money crunch hits Clarenceville

Declining enrollment and higher costs are giving the Clarenceville schools the same financial pains felt by neighboring districts.

Edward Salisz, district business manager, reported to the school board last week that expenses for the 1978-79 school year will exceed revenue by \$385,000, nearly eight per cent of the \$5 million budget.

"Our declining enrollment and financial situation is identical to the problem Livonia has," said Supt. David McDowell.

The district can use its surplus of \$234,506 to partially cover the projected deficit.

McDowell said additional measures under consideration to balance the budget include reducing spending another \$151,000, obtaining more state aid or seeking voter approval of a two mill tax increase.

"The school districts need help from the state legislature," McDowell said. "We are hoping they will be able to do something about it."

"It is unrealistic in an inflating economy to have less revenue next year than we had this year."

The superintendent said the board didn't act on any of the above alternatives last week since only four of seven members were present, but will consider the issue at its March 23 meeting.

"If the state doesn't do anything to help the schools, we will have to go to the people for additional funds," McDowell said.

If there is a millage vote, it would be held June 12 as part of the scheduled bond election.

The two mills per \$1,000 of assessed value would, for a person with a \$40,000 home, mean a \$40 tax increase. The district is currently operating on a \$7.0 mill levy.

McDowell said if the board cuts spending, he had no idea what would be cut.

"When we got the three mills (approved increase) this year, we told the voters we wouldn't reduce service. This promise we intend to keep."

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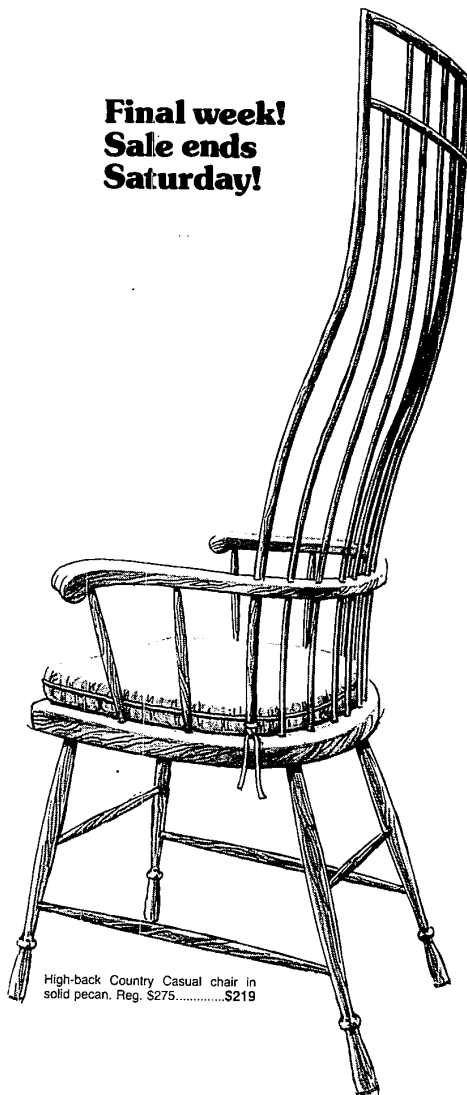
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