

# Middle school sports plan: intramural and interscholastic

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only crowd of teachers, coaches and parents for 2 1/2 hours before the committee made its recommendation.

Whalen's program advocates intramurals exclusively for middle schools which will open in September. He believes his plan would draw more children to participate in sports, while Cotton hopes to accommodate both athletically gifted and average talent students.

"A combined program might be less traumatic for this community," Cotton said. "If we continue with interscholastic and it doesn't meet our needs, it will be easier to transfer to intramurals only."

"In my study of middle schools, there's no right or wrong way, only a Farmington way."

The issue of finances — brought up in previous debates on the subject — was scarcely mentioned at the meeting. School officials did say they would be willing to equalize salaries between interscholastic and intramural coaches to attract coaches to both fields.

WHALEN BASED his intramurals-only approach on guidelines set by the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

"Intramurals would get to widespread

students," Whalen said. "Interscholastics has students after school five nights a week and intramurals just two nights a week."

"The pressure is stronger in interscholastics than intramurals and there's more possibility of injury."

The Farmington Education Association (FEA), the union representing district teachers, supports Whalen's proposal, although some teachers at Tuesday's meeting said they favored Cotton's program.

"The first goal of middle-school athletics is maximum participation," said Dick Corp, FEA vice president.

"In our present junior high program, only 20 percent of the kids are involved

in interscholastics and intramurals combined. I believe that's due to the quality of the program."

Another Whalen supporter argued that the age group (11- and 13-year-olds) should participate in intramurals only, leaving competitive sports at the four-year high schools. Others voiced concerns about safety and the fact that an intramurals-only approach never has tried in Farmington.

Other members of the curriculum committee are chairwoman Janice Rolnick and Jack Inch. All members of the Board of Education were in attendance.

# Taxes in Farmington: few assessment gripes

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Representatives for that downtown district with 125 homes registered a group appeal Tuesday night.

"State law says we have to assess property at 50 percent of the market value. The board is required to follow the law," Sailor said. "If we don't do it, the state will come in and do it for us."

A resident of the Camelot Condominiums, on Hawthorne east of Orchard Lake and north of Grand River, questioned his home's assessed worth of \$43,000. He paid \$200 more in taxes last year

than 1978 and was socked with a 16 percent assessment hike again this year.

SAILOR VERIFIED the condominium's worth. The only concession he offered the taxpayer was a promise that the city's millage or rate of taxation (12.9 mills last year) probably would be cut back this year.

"I don't know the amount yet," Sailor said.

The school district, which operates on voter approved millages, affects 70 percent of the tax bill, according to Sailor.

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