

School starts but pay still is disputed

By Patricia M. Bowling
Novi-Walled Lake News

Walled Lake teachers began classes as scheduled last Wednesday, but the question of how much money they will

make this year remained far from being answered.
A third party will referee the dispute next week, attempting to narrow the gap between the school board and teachers.
However, it's unclear exactly how

wide that gap actually is at this point. The school board has refused to budge from its request for a 10.9-percent decrease in teacher salaries. The teachers, on the other hand, have forwarded a request for a 17-percent increase over three years, but have yet to pro-

pose a breakdown indicating what they seek in a 1983-84 contract.

THE 1983-84 salary increases in neighboring districts range from a 5-percent increase in Farmington to a 7-

percent increase in West Bloomfield. Novi teachers are in the second year of a two-year pact which provides a 5.5-percent salary increase both years.
In the last two school years, Walled Lake teachers have negotiated one of the largest salary increases in Oakland County. In 1981-82, they received a 9.62-percent salary hike, the eighth largest increase in the county. (Hazel Park topped the list with an 11.25-percent increase).

IN 1982-83, Walled Lake teachers received a 10-percent increase, while Farmington teachers negotiated 9.5 percent, West Bloomfield 7.5 percent, Novi 5.5 percent and Huron Valley 10 percent.

In actual dollars, the 10.9-percent decrease the board has proposed could mean a reduction of between \$1,600 and \$3,400 for teachers annually, depending on seniority in the district and their amount of education.

A beginning Walled Lake teacher with a bachelor's degree earned \$15,479 in 1982-83. With the board's reduction, this starting salary would be decreased to about \$13,791.

If the teachers' request for a 17-percent increase over three years were divided equally, this would amount to an approximate 5.6-percent increase each year. A 5.6-percent increase in 1983-84 would bring the starting salary for a teacher with a bachelor's degree to \$16,345.

The 5.6-percent increase is suggested for comparison only; the teachers have not publicly proposed a yearly break-

down of the 17-percent increase they have requested.

IN SURROUNDING districts, a beginning teacher this year with a bachelor's degree will earn \$15,623 in Farmington, \$15,741 in Novi and \$15,405 in West Bloomfield.

A beginning teacher with a master's degree earned \$18,595 in Walled Lake last year. With the board's suggested reduction, a teacher on the same level would make about \$14,875 this year.

This year, a beginning teacher with a master's degree will earn \$17,246 in Farmington; \$17,239 in Novi; and \$17,163 in West Bloomfield.

Earth helps

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allow him to cut back on energy costs, it would sell for \$140,000-\$160,000. But the builder says he can build a house based on the same principles of energy saving for anywhere from \$65,000-\$200,000.

"This house comes in about eight variations," he said, indicating that the homeowner could choose from just about any of the traditional or contemporary home styles now available on the housing market.

Besides the solar/earth integration philosophies behind the house, Rentivo contends his house goes a step further in being different from the typical suburban house by its "comfort and convenience items."

Students give pros and cons of sex ed.

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vile sixth and seventh graders and high school special education students, Vickery said. The program for eighth graders and regular high school students is being developed and may be ready this year, she added.
The state requires many checks and balances. They're very protective of the student and the qualifications of the

teachers," she said. "We have to send letters home to get parents' permission for their children to participate in the program."

She said about 10 parents a year decide not to have their children take part in the program, mostly for religious reasons. This, she said, accounts for the strong support the program receives from parents in the annual surveys. In the most recent one, 101 of 102

parents responded positively.

Apparently, controversy does not swirl around the program as it did when sex ed was first introduced to public education. A return to the recent

survey's student comments seems to underscore this.

ASKED WHAT activities they liked best about the program, most students responded with "movies," "discussions" or "filmstrips."

School quality debated

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transfer issue, a group of homeowners in his Country Ridge subdivision petitioned the Oakland Intermediate School Board on their own for the transfer.

The board denied the request in 1982, and the homeowners now are attempting to have that decision overruled by the state Board of Education.

Section 5 is bounded by 14 and 13 Mile roads on the north and south and Halstead and Haggerty roads on the east and west.

Superintendent Don Sheldon said he was unaware of Van Voorhees' 1981 study until it was mentioned at a boundary hearing last May. A Section 5 homeowner provided school officials with a copy of the report in June, he said.

Sheldon said the report may have been suppressed by residents because it was "strongly supportive of Walled Lake schools."

"We believe the conditions that existed at the time the report was generated still exist (in Walled Lake Schools)," Sheldon said. "And we have the documentation to support that."

Superintendent talks

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late teachers who have ideas dealing with curriculum," according to Schulman.

The science consultant is Kathy McAdams. John Barrett is the writing coordinator. Both are teachers at Farmington High School.

SEVERAL OTHER ideas from the Curriculum Development Fund project will be tried this year, according to Schulman.

"We're doing some additional stuff with computers," he said. "We've added some computers to the senior high schools. There are a number of other items — just imaginative things teachers have come up with to improve the

curriculum."
Something else that's changed at Farmington — for the better, Schulman believes — is the district's physical plant, the buildings and grounds which make up school property.

"I've seen tremendous changes in the physical plant in the time I've been here," the superintendent said. "Up until about five years ago, our plant was deteriorating. The district just didn't have the money to keep it up."

"If you have a plant that's worth more than \$70 million, it's a shame to let it go to seed. But during the last few years, the board has very wisely put money into the district in terms of refurbishing and restoring it."

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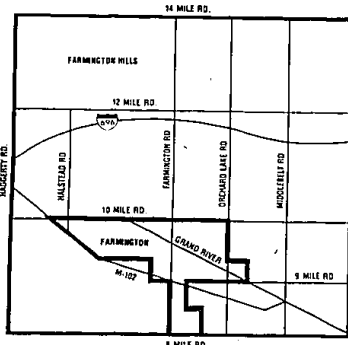
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