

### Suggestions Adopted

# School Board OKs New Report Cards

By VICTOR OMELCZENKO  
No more A, B, C, D, E's on report cards?  
No more final exams?

These novel ideas dominated a recent Farmington school board meeting at which the Reporting to Parents Committee (RPC) presented survey results and recommendations dealing with student evaluation methods.

Elementary students received check-list commentaries this year instead of letter grades. In the elementary, the teacher would write his observations on the student's achievement and suggestions for improvement.

ing a graded mark," said Bruce Duke. "How will a child know how he's doing in relation to others?" asked Duke.

"The child should be comparing in relation to himself, not his peers," answered Mrs. Patricia M. Smith, board member.

Elementary school teachers preferred this new check-list commentary reporting format.

OUT OF 237 elementary classroom teachers, 262 reported to a survey, with 70.5% or 186 teachers favoring the present commentary system.

Other percentages were 11.4% favoring letter grades, 5.7% narrative, 1.1% other methods and 11.3% no preference.

and increased interpretation with pupils, parents, and teachers, and will direct major effort in this area."

THE BOARD of Education approved new recommendations with a 6-0 vote. But unanimity didn't greet the proposals of the RPC's secondary school subcommittee.

Most discussion centered on the recommendation to discontinue the formal semester exam schedule.

Survey results for secondary schools showed 114 teachers favoring exams at mid-semester, 12 at the end of the school year and 166 not at all. Among the 896 student responses, 600 desired no final exams.

"Present educators feel de-emphasizing the value of a particular exam is a good thing," said Joseph Nicita, director of secondary education.

Richard W. Frankel, board member. "Discussion of the final exam with a student is important," he said.

But that discussion isn't widespread now. Students take the exam, get the grade and don't find out what they did right or wrong.

"The teacher in an academically oriented class should be able to evaluate students at the time she sees fit," said Nicita.

WITH DEPARTURE from the present strict final exam schedule, Frankel said teachers would have "greater flexibility to do a better job in examining."

"There isn't any written rationale for this move," objected Perrin. "I need more time for reflection on the matter," said John M. Washburn III, board member.

reporting and the teacher's report of student progress.

The subcommittee also recommended citizenship grades be continued at the junior-high level with senior high reporting intervals.

REPORT CARDS previously were handed out six times a year instead of the present four times at 10-week intervals.

The student progress reports now contain positive as well as any negative reporting considered necessary. These reports are given after the fifth, 15th, 25th, and 35th week of school and at any other time the teacher feels communication with the home would be beneficial.

In a 5-1 vote with Washburn dissenting, the board approved the other recommendations and tabled the final exam schedule issue for discussion in a few weeks.

business manager, explained that a \$5,000 to \$10,000 reimbursement for the equipment cost was expected from federal funds.

The board also authorized payment of \$1,300 for membership in the Michigan Association of School Boards for the 1970-71 school year.

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## Sultan Questions 'Disorderly' Law

The possibility of costly lawsuits against Farmington

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Township has been raised by a University of Detroit law professor and township resident.

Allen Sultan, who lives in the Village of Wood Creek Farms says lawsuits could result from a recently passed township ordinance.

THE ORDINANCE declares it to be a crime to "make or assist in making any noise disturbance, trouble or improper diversion."

It was adopted by the Township Board May 25 and becomes effective July 8. The vote was 6-0 with no abstentions.

When the ordinance was being discussed, one trustee indicated it may have been valuable at the time of the peaceful demonstrations at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus.

The demonstrations were a reaction to President Nixon's announcement about troops in Cambodia.

ive Democrat, said, "the consequences can be most portentous."

"We are dealing with the rights of peaceful assembly, petition and protest which every citizen in the United States possesses. They are rights protected by both the civil and the criminal laws of the United States."

"Any lawyer worth his salt who is called in to defend a person charged under the ordinance for participating in that type of peaceful demonstration will be aware of possibility of federal lawsuits against the township."

"Since demonstrations usually attract a large group of people, the possible dangers of a sizable number of lawsuits becomes apparent," Sultan said. It is a danger which he feels taxpayers should know about.

WHEN THE ORDINANCE was presented to the board, township attorney Joseph Y. Brennan said a similar law had recently been constitutionally approved by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

Sultan's opinion is that the decision does not apply to the OCC type situation. He says that the decision deals with a "wild party in Dearborn Heights."

"I understand similar problems here in Farmington were the original reason the law was first suggested some eight months ago. If it is used in this matter, it certainly is a valuable tool for the police."

"However," Sultan continues, "in the Dearborn Heights opinion, the court made the following crucial statement: 'we are dealing here, not with a constitutionally protected activity, but with a loud and raucous party.'"

"What is involved in this ordinance is that narrow line between the necessity for public order in one hand, and the right to publicly disagree with one's government on the other."

"Both are endemic to a free society. Both must be preserved, for when one citizen's rights are violated, no one else is safe."

SULTAN teaches constitutional law, criminal law and criminology.

He came to U-D four years ago from Indiana University Law School in Bloomington where he also taught constitutional and criminal law. He is a member of the constitutional law committee of the State Bar of Michigan.

EMU Graduates Commissioned

Two Farmington residents have been commissioned as second lieutenants in the Army following their graduation from Eastern Michigan University.

They are Kenneth J. Trussell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Trussell Jr., of 24508 Nine Mile, and Robert J. Kainz, son of Maj. and Mrs. Robert A. Kainz of 29164 Oak Pointe. Trussell will be in the armor branch, Kainz in the medical service.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

To the members of the First Farmington Savings and Loan Association.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with the By-Laws, the annual meeting of the First Farmington Savings and Loan Association will be held at its principal office in the City of Farmington on Wednesday, June 24, 1970, at 3 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of electing directors, and for such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Signed,  
FIRST FARMINGTON SAVINGS  
By A.J. Primm, President

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