

Schools ready for start of a new year

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White in the newly created staff and curriculum department.

Assistant Superintendent Lynn Nutter was moved from overseeing secondary education to administrative operations. Michael Flanagan, a former assistant superintendent, was promoted to deputy superintendent.

"THERE WAS a complete revision of the school structure," Lewis said, "although it will take a while

before it has meaning and visibility for people."

Instead of retaining school divisions — elementary and secondary — Lewis is promoting a kindergarten through grade 12 approach. This will allow his new "cabinet" to oversee at all levels in more specified areas, he said.

"I've already had a wide array of responsibility. I think it's better to specialize," he added.

In several of the schools, principal and assistant principal posts were

filled with a combination of lateral moves and promotions.

William Martin, formerly assistant principal at Warner Middle School, is the new principal at East Middle School and former elementary teacher Barbara Novatis is principal at Wood Creek Elementary.

"They replaced Wallace Peine, who moved to Beechview Elementary as principal. Martin replaces Alton Bennett who retired.

New to the assistant principals'

group is former math and computer teacher Laura Miner at East Middle School, who replaces William Mason who will handle the same job at Warner.

DESPITE THE many changes, there are still matters without solution facing the district as the new year begins.

Helping the staff adjust to the changes is one. Lewis knows he faces a large job with a large staff, and that change doesn't come easily.

"I'm not naive to think that just because I'm changing things, everything will be wonderful," he said.

Another issue facing the district is an unresolved union agreement.

The district's collective bargaining contract with custodial, maintenance and food service workers, which expired July 1, is keeping administrators and union representatives busy at the bargaining table, according to Farmington's head of labor relations, Robert Coleman.

And, at the end of this school year "three more contracts are up," he added, including one with the Farmington Education Association, which represents the district's teachers.

mentary education. Yet to be hired for the 1986-87 school year are two high school teachers, one in business and marketing and the other in math and computers to replace Miner, Coleman said.

Staff, students and Farmington-area residents will see various building changes and capital purchases during the coming year, as the district begins a \$2.5 million building improvement program budgeted for 1986-87.

p.m. and Warner and Power middle schools from 7:50 a.m. to 2:13 p.m.

At the elementary level school hours are from 8:55 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. at Eagle, Flanders, Forest, Gill, Kenbrook, William Grace and Wooddale elementary and from 9:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Beechview, Larkshire, Longacre and Wood Creek elementary.

Cloverdale Training Center school hours are from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., while the Farmington Training Center operates from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kindergarten sessions run from 12:30 to 3:05 at Eagle, Flanders, Forest, Gill, Kenbrook, William Grace and Wooddale, and from 12:55 to 3:30 p.m. at Beechview, Larkshire, Longacre and Wood Creek elementary.

A page detailing the Farmington Public Schools bus routes and schedules was published in Section C of the Thursday, Aug. 21, Farmington Observer.

No pact but classes begin

By Mary Klemic
staff writer

Classes will start this week in the Farmington School District, with teacher negotiations continuing, as they have in other years.

It has been the district's tradition not to reach a new agreement with the teachers union until after the "fourth Friday" student enrollment count, superintendent Michael Shiber said. The enrollment figure is used to determine state aid to school districts.

"We're still negotiating the teachers' contract," Shiber said last week. "In my opinion, things are going well."

school business affairs. "All of the bargaining units have agreed to wait as close to the fourth Friday count (as possible)."

The district includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

As of last week, 431 K-12 school districts in Michigan had ratified contracts or reached tentative agreements with their teachers for the 1986-87 school year. Three of these were settled last week, leaving 94 districts still negotiating with teacher representatives.

In Farmington, teacher negotiations began around May, were in abeyance in July and resumed in August, Shiber said. The teachers' current one-year contract expires Sept. 1.

27.

At 8:05 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, seventh graders will report to the junior high gymnasium and eighth graders to the cafeteria. Classes will dismiss at 11 a.m. High school students will report at 7:40 a.m. and be dismissed at 10:35 a.m. Tuesday.

Regular school hours are:

Botsford Elementary School, 8:55 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.; Grandover Elementary School, 8:40 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.; Clarenceville Junior High School, 8:05 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.; Clarenceville High School, 7:40 a.m. to 2:05 p.m.

THE FIRST full day of school will be Wednesday, Aug. 27. The hot lunch program will begin this day. Applications for free and reduced-cost lunches are available in every building.

Transportation schedules are available in each school building office. Parents of kindergarten children who will be transported should have been already notified of transportation plans. Questions about transportation should be directed to Grover Lewis, 473-8945.

A LARGE number of new teachers were hired this year to replace those promoted and the many who retired due to a new state retirement law for school employees. The newcomers will go through a half-day orientation next Wednesday at Warner Middle School, which includes a community bus trip, Coleman said.

The district lost a record 54 employees during 1985 mainly because of the retirement law, according to Coleman, leaving gaps in many areas.

Handling the recruitment of new employees to Farmington Public Schools is Lawrence Freedman, former assistant superintendent for elementary education.

CONTRACTS WITH the other two unions in the district, those representing custodial/maintenance employees and secretaries, usually are settled after the teachers' agreement is worked out, Shiber said.

"We won't be even discussing (salary) until the end of September or the first of October," said Edward Salts, assistant superintendent of

IN THE meantime, the district is "set and ready to go" with a new school year, Shiber said.

An employee breakfast will take place Monday, Aug. 25. The next day, students will attend half-day sessions in the morning. Afternoon kindergarten students will have their first day of school Wednesday, Aug.

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