

'Teacher on TV' pilot moves ahead

By Casey Hane
staff writer

A new program allowing low enrollment classes at the three Farmington high schools to be linked by cable may begin as soon as this fall.

Called "Teacher on TV," the program is being tested throughout the district.

Officials say without the program, classes taught only at one school might not be offered, or students would be bused between schools, which is the current policy.

The shrinking number of students in certain classes may become worse in future years because of overall declining enrollment in high schools.

"I'm really excited we are doing this," said trustee Helen Prutow, who also serves on the Oakland County Intermediate School Board. "I look forward to the time when we can hook in with other districts. Interactive TV in unlimited. I feel this is the future."

Trustees were given a sampling of the program Feb. 28. Although they did not vote to approve the program, plans are to continue with the pilot and prepare final plans — including the proposed hiring of a production manager.

TRUSTEES ARE expected to vote at a future meeting, probably during the 1989-90 budget process, when dollar figures are attached to

the final plans.

The pilot, which began last fall, has involved more than 300 students with various lessons.

"Kids find it to be eventful — they don't feel inhibited by the camera," said Peggy Schmidt, director of media resources for the district.

Farmington has studied programs in other districts, including neighboring Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, she said.

Only certain classes would work with the "Teacher on TV" approach, according to telecommunications coordinator Dean Cobb, who has played an integral role in the pilot program.

"I'm not a tremendous advocate of a hands-on approach. Not everything will work on TV," he said. "We realize that."

THE NEW program uses live remotes from classrooms at school buildings and the TV-10 cable studio at North Farmington. If approved as a permanent program, designated classrooms would be set up at each high school and would include facsimile equipment for transmitting homework assignments.

The proposed production manager would cost the district upwards of \$20,000 and would coordinate classroom and production schedules, and train teachers on the new process, said deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
City Council Chambers
23600 Liberty
8 p.m., Monday, March 6

The annual presentation of public safety and citizen awards scheduled for tonight, in addition to the annual statistical report from the department. Also on the agenda is a sign variance request from the owners of Village Commons Shopping Center on Grand River.

Other agenda items include:
• fees for use of public safety training facility.

• contractor payments for city hall renovations.
• financial reports from city departments.

Farmington Hills Planning Commission
City Council Chambers
31555 11 Mile
7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 9

The following preliminary site plan hearings are scheduled:
• (landscape) north of Hills Tech Drive, east of Haggerty. Request: office in ISO, industrial research office district. Proponent: Peter Burton. Owner: Burton-Katzman Development Co.
• (landscape) 34705 12 Mile, east of Drake. Request: office in OS-4, office research district. Proponent:

Nick Chalas. Owner: Arboretum Properties.
• north side of Eight Mile, east of Pearl. Request: addition to new car dealership in B-3, general business district. Proponent: Henry Freshco. Owner: T&F Land Co.

• south side of 18 Mile, between Haggerty and Halsted. Request: condos in RP-1, planned residential district. Proponent: Bernie Giebertman. Greenpointe II Condos. Owner: Copperwood Creek Ltd.

• north of 12 Mile, between Haggerty and Halsted. Request: condos in RP-1, planned residential district. Proponent: Leon Zolkover. Owner: Copperwood Creek Ltd.

• (resubmitted) north side of Freedom, east of Drake. Request: elderly housing in RC-1, multiple family residential district. Proponent:

Paul Hendrickson, Freedom Square Ltd. Dividend Housing Association. Owner: city of Farmington Hills.

Also:
• cluster option request: east side of Drake, south of I-696. Cluster option qualification in RA-1, one-family residential district. Proponent: Robert Harris. Owner: Margaret Schaeffer.

• zoning request: 20900 Pearl, south of Grand River, RA-3, one-family residential district, to B-3, general business district. Proponent: Walter Sarevich. Owner: James A. Wright.

• lot split: 25597, 25603 and 25675 Middlebelt, west side, between 11 Mile and Gramercy Court. Request: 4 parcels. Proponent/owner: James M. Burroughs.

obituaries

LOUISE H. PHILLIPS

Mrs. Phillips, 85, of Farmington Hills died in Oak Hill Nursing Home. Born in Huntsville, Ind., Mrs. Phillips was a retired clerk for a dry cleaning store.

Surviving is her friend, Leona Rubin of Farmington Hills. Burial was in Grove Lawn Cemetery, Pontiac, Ind. Arrangements were made by the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington.


IDA A. KAPONEN

Mrs. Kaponen, 79, of Chassel, Mich., formerly of Livonia died Feb. 19 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia. Born in Atlantic Mine, Mich., Mrs.

Kaponen was a homemaker.

Survivors include her sons, Kenneth and Robert; daughters, Elaine Lehtola and Joyce Juntunen; brothers, Elmer and Onni Koski; 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Services were Feb. 22 at the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Elmer Linnatta of Apostolic Lutheran Church officiating. Burial was in Mt. View Cemetery, South Range, Mich.



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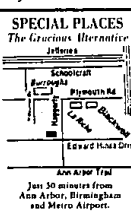
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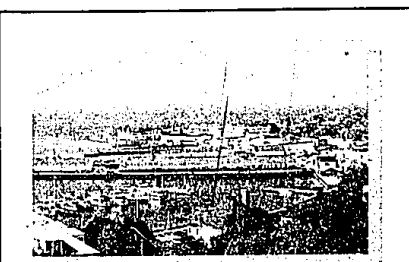
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