

## Boundaries, then staffing are next steps for Hillside

By Casey Hane  
staff writer

After attendance boundaries are set for Hillside Elementary Tuesday, staffing selection for the new school will begin.

But exactly who will teach at the 650-student building on the district's west side will be a mystery for several months.

Although many positions will be filled by existing staffers, school officials say, collective bargaining agreements follow specific procedures, which may not be completed until April or May.

"Some schools who have lost sections (of students) will lose staff members," explained Warner Middle School principal Walt Seib, who sits on an advisory committee that studied options last fall for the new school's boundaries.

"We have involuntary transfers. It may be that some of these people will accept vacancies — many at Hillside," he said. "There's also a voluntary transfer process. That may fill Hillside. If there are still vacancies, the district will hire from the outside."

THE ISSUE was raised at a recent boundary study group meeting, in which the parents asked about about staffing procedures for the school. In addition to the new school opening, retirements and an expected increase in elementary student population may also impact the hiring process, school officials said.

Hillside principal Richard Rutter began staffing and operations planning for his new school as of Jan. 1, when he left his former position at Fairview Early Childhood Center. He is meeting this month with personnel and other administrators to set the necessary timelines for the school, he said.

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School officials are also reviewing the program at Highmeadow Common Campus — a 2-year pilot program of basic classes plus enrichment — to determine what has worked there and how some of the curriculum could be used at the new elementary. Said assistant superintendent Judith White. That report is expected sometime this spring.

THE SCHOOL board will meet Tuesday evening at Power Middle School to act on a plan formulated by a community boundary study committee and refined by school administrators. The board has had two weeks to study the proposal and to consider any additional comments from the community before making a decision.

Under the proposal, 553 students who currently attend Flanders, Forest, Beechview and Longacre will attend Hillside, putting the new elementary facility at 85 percent of capacity.

Other proposed changes involve a group of Beechview students who would be transferred to Wood Creek on the district's east side. No changes are proposed for attendance boundaries at Eagle, Gill, Highmeadow, Kenbrook, Larkshire, Woodlake and William Grace elementary schools.

Tuesday's school board meeting begins at 8 p.m. Power is at 34740 Rhinwood, Farmington Hills.

## Brothers bound over for trial in fake driver's licenses case

By Joanne Malczowski  
staff writer

Robert Slobin charged \$50 on one occasion and \$60 on another for making fraudulent driver's licenses, a Farmington Hills undercover police cadet testified in 47th District Court Friday.

"He said this is one of the best ones he ever did," cadet Stacy Swanderski testified about her purchase of a fake driver's license Dec. 29. "He said it would be \$50, and not \$60, because I didn't need my photo taken."

But when Swanderski returned to Slobin's business, Farmington Hills Fast Photo, 29564 Orchard Lake Road, with a second cadet Jan. 2, he charged the cadet \$60 because his license was not the necessary type and required a new photograph.

"(He Robert Slobin) then said we had to go to the back room so Scott (the other undercover cadet) could get his picture taken," Swanderski testified.

Robert P. Slobin, 25, owner of Farmington Hills Fast Photo, is charged with two felony counts of forgery of public records and conspiracy to forge public records.

His brother and employee, Richard E. Slobin, 20, is charged with one count of forgery and two counts of conspiracy. He also is charged with one misdemeanor count of forging a license. The brothers pleaded not guilty to all charges.

AFTER A preliminary exam Friday, District Court Judge Fred Harris bound the pair over for trial in Oakland County Circuit Court. The Farmington Hills brothers are free on cash/surety bonds, which Harris continued Friday.

Following their arraignment Jan. 3, Robert Slobin posted 10 percent of a \$15,000 bond, and Richard 10 percent of a \$10,500 bond. A trial date has not been set.

The felony counts carry a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. The misdemeanor count carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$100 fine.

Oakland County assistant prosecutor James Marcinkowski presented Swanderski and three police officers as witnesses in the almost two-hour preliminary exam. Robert Slobin's attorney, Jerome Sabbotta of Birmingham, and Richard Slobin's attorney, Ronald Pentz of Bloomfield Hills, did not present witnesses.

Swanderski testified that she capped a Farmington Hills police investigation that began the last week of December with a tip from West Bloomfield police that a Farmington Hills business was providing teens with false driver's licenses.

West Bloomfield police officer John Fedoranko testified that 73 driver's licenses from six people were recovered in the investigation. Swanderski also testified that Richard Slobin was not involved in any of the transactions she conducted.

undercover to buy fake identification. But Oakland County assistant prosecutor James Marcinkowski said it can be assumed from the investigation and testimony that he was involved with the (photo) processing equipment in the back of the store.

ONE OF two Farmington Hills officers, who had the photo business under surveillance, testified that 75 percent of the time, they did not see Richard Slobin at the store's front counter. They said they saw him go into the back room, where the photo processing equipment was.

Richard Slobin's attorney, Ronald Pentz, objected to the police search of Slobin's jacket, which contained his legal license and another with his photo but "all the information (on it) was that of Robert," Farmington Hills officer Dan Herick testified.

Swanderski testified that she was given a driver's license by the Farmington Hills police Department to use in the undercover operation. At the photo store, Robert Slobin asked her also for her own license. "I handed him both licenses and he told me to return in one hour," she said.

Swanderski said that when she returned, she was given a snapshot of the finished product that needed to be cut to appear as a legal license.

"Richard then said, 'We need some IDs cut out,'" Swanderski testified.

She later asked Robert Slobin if she could return with a friend. "He

said, 'Yes, as long as it wasn't a cop,'" she continued.

Swanderski testified that the fake license was made by cutting the photograph from her legal license and placing over someone else's license (provided by the police department).

DEFENSE ATTORNEY Sabbotta unsuccessfully argued that Robert Slobin should not be bound over on forgery and conspiracy charges.

"What I'm saying to the court is we don't have a forgery case here. Nothing was changed on the license itself," Sabbotta said, adding that only license photographs were changed, not information on the identification.

Sabbotta said a specific statute governing conduct, such as changing a photograph, should be used. That would fall under the state Motor Vehicle Code, which prohibits the reproduction, alteration or counterfeiting of a license photograph or part of a license. Violation of the Motor Vehicle Code is a misdemeanor.

Sabbotta argued the same for the conspiracy charge. "They've got to show the two people agreed to commit a crime," he said.

Richard Slobin's attorney, Pentz, agreed. "What acts did he commit?" Pentz asked. He referred to Swanderski's testimony that Richard Slobin was not involved in any transactions for fake driver's licenses.

## Bomb threats disrupt Dunckel, OCC

Continued from Page 1

She said it's college policy to evacuate students and staff after a bomb threat.

Farmington Hills police assisted in traffic control, closing the intersection of Oakland Drive-Orchard Lake Road and Oakland Drive-Farmington Road, Oakland Drive, the main road through campus, was reopened at 12:30 p.m., said Farmington Hills Sgt. Gary Hawald.

Late Friday, Zawacki said no bombs had been found on the 6,800-student campus. Classes resumed Saturday.

IN AN unrelated incident at O.E. Dunckel Middle School, 32800 12 Mile, a male caller said a bomb was set to go off at noon Thursday.

At 11:30 a.m., a quiet-spoken man with a slight foreign accent called the school and said a bomb had been planted. Assistant principal Tom McConaghie alerted principal Bubi

Burton, who was at the Farmington Hills school district's central office.

Then McConaghie and the Dunckel staff evacuated the 653-student school as if it were a fire drill, said Sgt. Gary Hawald of the Farmington Hills police.

Police joined a team of 10 maintenance employees to search the school in the prescribed school district manner when bomb threats are received.

The "all clear" came 45 minutes later at 12:15 p.m., when students and staff were allowed to re-enter. "We think it was an isolated incident," Hawald said.

The school took all the necessary precautions," added Don Cowan, director of student services/operations.

There are no suspects in either case, investigators said.

IN THE past two weeks, bomb threats have been received at the OCC Auburn Hills campus, at Wash-

taw Community College, the University of Michigan-Dearborn and the Detroit College of Business in Dearborn.

On Jan. 10, three pipe bombs exploded on the Oakland University campus in Auburn Hills. Two suspects were arrested.

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