

5-year program for gifted OK'd

By Casey Hens
staff writer

A revision of gifted education in Farmington schools will begin immediately, after the school board approved a five-year master plan for change Jan. 8.

The board approved the plan unanimously, with little comment. The new approach will: identify gifted students beginning in kindergarten, focus not only on intellectual but on other abilities as well, link gifted curriculum through all grades, train staff and parents and evaluate student progress.

But the most controversial aspect of the program seems to be the "clustering" of gifted students within regular classrooms in lieu of giving students their own gifted school or a magnet-type program.

CYNTHIA ZWINCK, who organized a group of parents of gifted students during the past year, said clustering of elementary students concerned her.

"Clustering — what exactly is it?" she said. "I would be surprised to see the board adopt a plan so vague in concept." She said gifted students may be unintentionally pushed aside by teachers who don't know how to deal with them and that cost of the program is also a concern. "I think it's going to be very expensive to retrain half the elementary teachers in the district," she added.

Another parent said she favors the clustering concept, however. Sandy McKelley said gifted stu-

dents "need to be with other kids and know how to deal with other kids. These gifted kids are not going to be separated from the world all their lives."

Just how gifted students will be clustered and taught has yet to be decided. The plan calls for a task force to study the clustering option and better define it. Assistant superintendent Judith White said it is "not appropriate at this time" to get into a discussion about the issue. "We have to look at each individual building, staff, students and their needs. They will get the curriculum based on their needs."

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police/fire calls

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week:

● ASSAULT REPORTED

A 30-year-old Farmington Hills man was reportedly attacked in the Farmington Board of Education parking lot early the morning of Jan. 6.

The man told Farmington public safety officers that he had just parked in the lot, near the sledding hill, at 2:20 a.m., when six men walked toward his car and began kicking it.

He then got out wielding a golf club to fend them off, but was pushed to the ground and assaulted. He said he suffered a cut above his eye and other bruises.

● TWO BURGLARIES

Thieves got away with nearly

\$5,000 in personal items during two recent, unrelated residential burglaries in Farmington.

According to Farmington Department of Public Safety reports:

The first was reported in early January, when someone stole more than \$3,500 in jewelry and credit cards from a resident of Chatham Hills apartments. The items were believed stolen between early December and Jan. 5.

The second incident was reported on Floral Street, where more than \$1,450 in items were taken from the house. Included were the garage door opener, a tape recorder, cash and jewelry.

● CIGARETTE FIRE

A smoke detector alerted homeowners on Gilchrist to a smoldering chair in their living room Jan. 10, according to a Farmington Hills fire report.

A cigarette is blamed for the fire that caused an estimated \$250 damage to the chair. The homeowners were uninjured and evacuated by firefighters. The chair was removed from the house and the fire extinguished with snow by firefighters.

"One of the leading causes of fire is associated with the discarding of smoking materials," said Peter Baldwin, deputy fire chief.

● THEFTS REPORTED

A Detroit Free Press newspaper box valued at \$300 was reported stolen from 29405 12 Mile, Jan. 10.

A hydraulic pump for a snow plow valued at \$700 was reported stolen from Tom Holzer Ford Inc., 39300 10 Mile, Jan. 6-8.

The tailgate for a 1991 Ford pickup truck valued at \$400 was reported stolen from Tom Holzer Ford Inc., 39300 10 Mile, Jan. 8-9.

A 1991 GMC Jimmy truck valued at \$23,000 was reported stolen from

the east lot of Art Pack Services, in the old winery building, 31505 Grand River, Jan. 9. The truck was later recovered in Detroit with ignition and dashboard damage.

A purse and contents valued at \$40 was reported stolen from the Burger King restaurant, 31704 Grand River. Cash totaling \$140 was reported stolen from an employee at the Oak Hill Care Center, 34225 Grand River, as she napped Jan. 6.

● DAMAGE REPORTED

A car rear window was broken and a lock punched out on a car at Bonaventure Skating Center, 24505 Halsted, Jan. 9. Damage was estimated at \$400.

Safety glass at Ray's Interiors, 33300 Slocum, was cracked and damaged Jan. 8-9, causing some \$850 in damage.

A van at Federal Asbestos Removal, 31505 Grand River, was damaged Jan. 4-7, causing \$100 in damage.

obituaries

ALFRED C. PARMENTER

Mr. Parmenter, 74, of Northville died Jan. 3 in Star Manor of Northville.

Born in Detroit, Mr. Parmenter was a sales engineer in the automotive industry. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Northville, retired captain of the U.S. Air Force, Plymouth Elks, life member of the American Society of Body Engineers, Retired Officers Association, American Association of Retired Persons, and the University of Michigan Alumni Club.

Survivors include his wife, Pearl; daughters, Pamela Lee Correll and Sandra K. Forth, both of Farmington Hills; brothers, Lawrence and Robert; sisters, Esther Berendt and Ruth Arnold; six grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 7 at the Casteline Funeral Home, Northville, with the Rev. James Russell of First Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial was in Rural Hill Cemetery, Northville.

Memorials may be made to Alzheimer's Foundation or the First Presbyterian Church, Northville.

SADIE H. AVERY

Mrs. Avery, 82, of Farmington

Hills died Jan. 7 in Farmington Nursing Home.

Born in England, Mrs. Avery was a clerk for the Veterans Administration.

Survivors include her daughters, Sharon Spence and Barbara Bonneau; sister, Isabel Trembath, six grandchildren.

Services were Jan. 10 at the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, Farmington, with the Rev. Arthur J. Hunt of Ward Presbyterian Church officiating. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery, Detroit.

LYNNE BRADY

Mrs. Brady, 54, of Farmington Hills died Jan. 9.

Born in Canada, Mrs. Brady was a registered nurse. She received a

bachelor of science degree in nursing from Hotel Dux Hospital of Nursing, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Survivors include her daughters, Dr. Mary Beth Brady and Erin Hartlow; son, Thomas; father, John Norton; brother, Glen Norton; one grandchild.

Mass was celebrated Jan. 12 in St. Gerald Catholic Church, Farmington, with the Rev. Menner officiating.

Headlee opposes tax hike

Continued from Page 1

district as having a 14.9 percent surplus.

But Flanagan said the district today has only \$1.5 million in its cash reserves, that new schools have been added in the district despite decreased enrollment and that expenses such as insurance have increased steeply.

Anderson said he and Headlee have each received "a number of calls" in support of the ad. He remains frustrated that members of a community group stumping for the millage refuse to debate the millage issue.

"My frustration is apparent," he

said. "We're trying to bring a debate. We have nobody that will talk about it."

SCHOOL OFFICIALS have said they will not debate the issue because they are not allowed by law to use tax money to promote a "yes" vote and have been warned by Anderson not to do so.

They are providing general information about the election through a school newsletter, through building principals, and at an informational meeting on Jan. 28.

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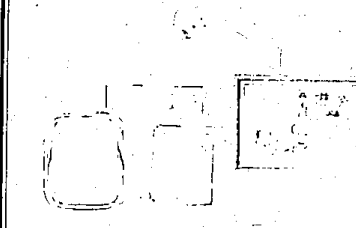
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