

# Trustees approve boundary change

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 1, 20-2 and 21-1 from Power to Dunckel.  
 • Section 22 and sub-sections 21-2, 21-4, 16-4, 15-3 and 15-4 from Dunckel to East.  
 THE PLAN attempts to equalize enrollment at the district's five middle schools, making better use of two underutilized schools, Warner and East. It also eases transportation to

the schools.  
 Trustee James Abernethy cast the dissenting vote on the motion, saying he preferred the board consider a magnet school concept to handle the problem. School superintendent Michael Flanagan said such a plan should be considered when a secondary education report is offered this spring, but should not be used to cure boundary inequities.  
 Trustees Kathleen Webb, Jack Cot-

ton, Jack Inch and board President Susan Rennels voted to approve the measure. Helen Ditzhazy and Helen Prutow were absent.  
 "I do this with confidence," Webb said in making her motion. "We're trying to do what's best for the district. I feel this is the best plan."  
 "Times have changed in Farmington and I think our options are limited."  
 Prior to the vote, a few personal

attacks were launched against Abernethy and Inch, who both live in the south end of the district. Some parents felt the two would vote for their area instead of the district, and one resident requested they abstain from voting. Both refused.  
 "If I lived at 14 Mile and Middlebelt, I would still be for Plan 2," said Inch, explaining that transportation was his major consideration. "If you

want to damn me for that, please do."  
 The absence of Ditzhazy and Prutow also came under personal attack from residents who believed a full board should have voted on the measure.  
 Highmeadow PTA president Susan Shapiro said she was disappointed with the tenor of the meeting, saying a millage win in February could have avoided all the problems, and

that people have to look at the entire picture and not consider boundaries in a vacuum.  
 "If people had voted for the millage, they could have had their addition at Power, and none of this needed to happen," she said. "The loss of money was not a hoax."  
 The board took its action Tuesday after 2 1/2 months of review of a committee boundary study presented to the board in mid-December.

# Hills, developer eye compromise on zoning dispute

Continued from Page 1  
 cludes the city council's 5-2 denial in January.  
 It also excludes an original complaint about the city council's 16-month moratorium on IRO development, imposed in September 1989 and lifted Dec. 17, 1990.  
 "It (Kafan's acreage) is not in my judgment the best office property in the city. But that doesn't mean the zoning (office-service) is not reasonable," Donohue said.  
 But Donohue also believes "you'd have to be blind not to see we are in a depressed office market."  
 In a telephone interview in late 1990, Kafan told the Observer that he has lost about \$100,000 a year in the last three or four years waiting for a decision on his rezoning request. Kafan began efforts to rezone in 1986.  
 Donohue's response to the amended complaint was due March 1. The issue is still scheduled for trial July 16 before Oakland County Circuit

Judge Steven Andrews.  
 IN THE AMENDED complaint, Burnstein argues that Kafan's office-zone acreage is "isolated" because there are no other office uses in the surrounding area.  
 "The present and future trend of building and development in the area... is not office. There is no market demand for office uses (as now zoned)," according to the complaint.  
 "Because of the location, irregular shape, severe topography and closeness to an industrial subdivision, the land is not suitable for a quality office development under the OS-1 (office-service) zoning," the complaint continues.  
 The city council's refusal to rezone the land to IRO, according to the complaint, was arbitrary, unlawful, unconstitutional and done knowingly and recklessly.  
 Donohue said the amended complaint "fairly reflects the issues between the parties. They are now get-

ting down to the nitty-gritty."  
 Residents who live near Kafan's property have long been involved in the rezoning issue, which evolved into public concern about toxic and hazardous materials they believed could be used in the IRO zone.  
 A majority of Hillside Estates Condominium residents supported Kafan's request. It would have ensured only 120,000 square feet of one-story buildings built into the slope of the land.  
 The buildings also would have been air-conditioned so door and windows would not have to be

opened, which could create a noise problem.  
 DURING KAPTAN'S wait for the city council's decision, changes in the types of uses allowed in an IRO zone were made. Pharmaceutical and laboratories engaging in genetic research are excluded as principal uses in the IRO and light-industrial districts.  
 In the light industrial districts, the handling of pharmaceuticals and certain other materials would require special approval from the planning commission.  
 The city council in January told

residents the planning commission would be asked to review the possibility of restricting IRO zones to land west of Halsted and south of 12 Mile. IRO zones are now allowed anywhere in the city, with approved rezoning.  
 The planning commission also was expected to review alternatives to

the IRO, such as a technical office district, as suggested by Independence Hills subdivision resident David Kamit. Such a zone would allow engineering, design and drafting firms, banks, simple assembly operations, small warehouses, and low-tech product testing and development. Kamit suggested in January

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