

O&E THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1991

# Schools now required to make annual report

See Phil Power's column on today's editorial page on what to look for in a school annual report. For the first time in history, officials of every local school building in Michigan must give the public a written annual report on how they are trying to improve.

The report is required under Public Act 25, the massive school quality improvement law passed in 1990.

With its statistical tables, it will be like a corporate officers' annual report to shareholders, comparing last year's performance to this year's.

"It will make people aware of what is really happening in their schools, what they're trying to do,

what some of the obstacles are and what some of the successes are," said Dorothy Beardmore, president of the State Board of Education.

PA 25 has teeth: Schools can actually lose 5 percent state aid if they fail to produce a report. In-formula districts also get an additional \$25 per student from the state for performing this new state-imposed duty. Farmington is out-of-formula and is not affected monetarily.

The law requires that the report be sent to the State Board of Education in Lansing and the Intermediate (county) school district. Copies must be distributed in each school building's area.

Reports are to spell out the build-

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— Dorothy Beardmore  
president, state board of education

ing's goals, core curriculum, student achievement measurements, student retention rates, accreditation status, and measurements of parental involvement.

July 31 is the deadline for producing the annual report. State school officials say that's too early because some statistical material will be unavailable. Next year's school aid act is likely to push the date into late summer.

Farmington is scheduled to give its district annual report on June 18 during the regular school board meeting. Building meetings are being held throughout May and into early June.

Some districts already do such reports. This year is the first time the report will be mandatory and must cover seven specific areas. Here is the state Department of Education's outline of what the reports must contain:

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT** — Three- to five-year plans must cover

mission, goals oriented to student outcome, staff development, building-level decision making and input from school people, students and the public.

This section should describe how the school intends to use the core curriculum to achieve its goals. The staff development section should show evidence of training in improving the school.

**CORE CURRICULUM** — Student achievement outcomes are to be defined. Courses, units of study, instructional materials and assessment strategies will be listed. The State Board of Education has produced a "model" core curriculum. The local school may vary from the state model but must explain the difference.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT** — Results of local student competency tests, state and national tests will be reported. Where possible, there should be three-year comparisons.

Examples: Michigan Educational Assessment Program test results for math and reading in grades 4, 7 and 10; MEAP science results for grades 5, 8 and 11; American College Testing results; Scholastic Aptitude tests.

**STUDENT RETENTION** — The

law defines this as the proportion of students who enter 9th grade and complete 12th.

The data should include not only graduation rates but transfers in, transfers out and transfers to adult ed. The state wants details on drop-outs in order to target assistance.

**ACCREDITATION STATUS** — Since this is the first year of state accreditation of buildings, no comparisons will be possible.

Many high schools have dual accreditation from the University of Michigan and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Schools in a "warned" status — in danger of losing accreditation — must report the status and steps they are taking to maintain accreditation.

**SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS** — A district that operates specialized schools must describe them, indicating their purpose, enrollment numbers, procedure for enrolling and how well goals are being met.

**PARENT CONFERENCES** — The report should show the number and percentage of parents (or guardians) who attend conferences with teachers.

Research shows student achievement improves with regular parent-teacher communication.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

## 'It Was A Dark And Stormy Night'

Ebenezer (played by North Farmington's Michael Cyrulnik) frightens two little old ladies, Arabella (Anjelae Deshpande) and Hepzibah (Megan Fallon), during a rehearsal for "It Was A Dark And Stormy Night," to be staged at North Farmington High School at

7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday, May 23-24. Tickets, \$3 for students and \$4 for adults, can be purchased at the door. Senior citizens (over 60) who live in the Farmington District may obtain passes to the show and other school activities.

# Local schools schedule informational meetings

State-mandated school informational meetings are scheduled for the Farmington Public Schools during May and June.

Under Public Act 25 of 1990, schools must have a school improvement plan and a curriculum which identifies the learning expectations of each student. The law also requires each district to plan for accreditation at each school by the 1992-93 school year, and to share with the community the status and progress of these initiatives in an Annual Education Report.

A districtwide report must be presented by July 31; Farmington is expected to present its report at the June 18 school board meeting. Reports are also prepared for each school.

According to information from the school district, the following schools are holding individual meetings at

their respective buildings:

- May 23 — 5 p.m. Longacre Elementary; 7 p.m. William Grace Elementary and Warner Middle schools.
- May 28 — 7 p.m. Power Middle School; 8 p.m. Gill Elementary School.
- May 29 — 7 p.m. North Farmington High School.
- May 30 — 7 p.m. East Middle School.
- June 3 — 6:30 p.m. Dunckel Middle School; 7 p.m. Larkshire Elementary School.

The following schools held their meetings between May 2-15 and reports are available at each respective school: Alameda and Fairview early childhood centers; Beechview, Highmeadow Common Campus, Flanders, Hillside, Eagle, Wood Creek, Wooddale, Forest AND Kenbrook elementary schools; and Farmington and Harrison high schools.



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