

Tell Plan To Foster Minority Understanding

By MARTHA MAHAN

FARMINGTON Farmington public schools, whose 800-plus faculty includes only one Negro teacher and one oriental, would begin active recruitment at all-black universities, among Negro fraternities and sororities and by advertising in Negro newspapers, it proposals put forward at Monday's board of education study session are accepted.

An audience of about 60 persons, all but a handful school staff members, heard

the Farmington Enterprise Observer
EMORY DANIELS, Editor
36251 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, Mich. 48150
Phone 261-8600
Published every Wednesday and Weekend
Home Delivery Service
Newstand per copy, 15¢
Carrier monthly, 50¢
Phone 261-3800
Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150 every Wednesday and Sunday. Postmaster: Please Send Notice of Change of Address to the U.S. Post Office, Livonia, Michigan. Address all mail subscriptions change of address forms 3579 to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, Michigan 48151.

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committee proposals for implementing a program to foster minority understanding drawn up by the Family Life Education (FLE) committee and adopted by the board last spring.

SUGGESTIONS ON how to carry out the program were left to a committee of educators, parents and students headed by Joseph Nicita, director of secondary education.

It was this committee which reported Monday.

A public hearing will be held Monday, March 29, at 8 p.m. in Harrison High School. In addition to hiring black teachers, the committee recommended encouraging voluntary staff exchanges whereby Negro teachers from other districts would change places with white Farmington teachers for one month periods.

"We'd like to recruit more oriental teachers as well, but we just don't know where to go for them," Nicita told the Farmington Enterprise and Observer. "Besides, there's no use kidding anybody. It's the black race the minority understanding program really is aimed at."

IN A PREFACE to its recommendation, the committee frankly calls "contrived" the direct contact experiences with minorities suggested in the report.

"If the present situation in the community does not readily offer these desirable experiences on a regular basis in a natural way, it is necessary for the school system to contrive experiences that at first may seem artificial but will gradually become natural," the report states.

"Experiences must be planned so that our students will begin to have contacts with people of minority groups on a regular basis," it goes on.

"The adults who generally have an effect on the formation of attitudes of our young people must be given the opportunity to better prepare themselves for this very important, delicate task. The total community must be involved — especially the institutions of the family, the churches and the schools."

TO AID IN housing of professional staff from minority groups, the committee suggested that the board publicly state its interest in securing such housing and that owners of apartments, home-owner associations and real estate managers be asked for a written statement indicating their support and willingness to assist in the housing effort.

In asking for the written statement, Nicita said it was the committee's intent to be

"strong" in its attempts to secure minority housing but not "threatening."

Sharon Maher, Cloverdale teacher and committee member, suggested it might be hypocritical to recruit a black teacher in order to foster minority understanding and then ask him to live somewhere else.

Other programs suggested by the committee included:

- Compiling lists of educational material on minority understanding presently available in the schools and soliciting additional material from New Detroit Inc., Oakland Schools and other appropriate organizations;
- Library displays during Brotherhood Week, Negro History Week and other appropriate times;
- Use of foreign exchange students to supplement classroom study of their homelands and encouragement of attempts to attract foreign exchange students from Asia and Africa;
- Planned and supervised interscholastic activities with schools whose students represent a multi-racial and multi-ethnic background;
- At least one assembly in each school each year for promotion of human relations and stimulation of human relations clubs;
- Encouragement of the presentation of differing

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Orchard Ridge Violence

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Said Manilla: "As of last Thursday, we were presented a list of demands by the ABS. Some of the demands are such that they cannot be met at this point notice."

ABS representatives declined to meet only with the Orchard Ridge administrators, Manilla said, and about 70 to 80 of them held their own meeting. (About eight per cent, or nearly 500, of Orchard Ridge's 6,000 students are black.)

At about 12:15 the mass meeting broke up, and some of the black students began tipping over cafeteria tables and ordering other students to leave.

The group damaged a typewriter and injured one student in the office of the Orchard Ridge Recorder, the student newspaper. The group then set a fire in a trash can in a stairwell and in a women's restroom.

A telephone receiver was torn out of a booth, and furniture was shoved around in the second floor lounge.

Police said only about 10 to 15 students were involved in the disruption.

MONDAY'S disruption came just before representatives of the North Central Assn., an accrediting agency, were due to appear on the campus Thursday.

Manilla called the timing "highly coincidental."

One ABS demand was the OCC take "immediate action to fulfill necessary qualifica-

tions for accreditation," by North Central.

Police were called to the Orchard Ridge campus last spring when students staged a quiet demonstration following the shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University. That demonstration caused no disruption, although some students were angry that they had been photographed by police.

3 Local Boys Are Among State Champs

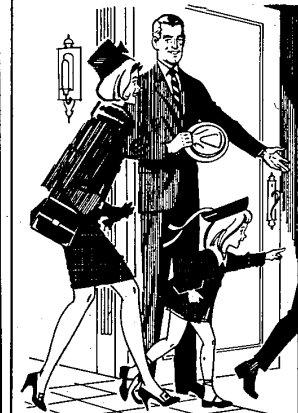
FARMINGTON Three Farmington boys are members of the newly crowned Pee Wee hockey state champions, the team sponsored by the Griffin Sport Shop of Livonia.

The Farmington players are: Jim Nistra, 13-year-old goalie who attends East Junior High in Farmington; Curtis Pauline of Macomb St.; and Tim Glennie of Wilmarth St.

Sofar, Griffin's record is 59-4 and won the state title in the finals against teams from Trenton, Port Huron, Sault Saint Marie and St. Clair Shores.

The team will represent Michigan in the national championships held April 2-4 in International Falls, Minn.

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