

Money man sees less school aid

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rett continues to keep an eye the state capitol, where legislation that would affect schools is being introduced regularly.

Weather school districts will be forced to give part of their tax base to poorer school districts this year, he believes. The forced sharing is expected to cost the district \$400,000 to \$775,000, but a change in recapture would reduce that by half.

The loss would vary in the future, depending on what occurs with other

property tax reform efforts. The cuts will hurt but will do so in a way that will allow the district to plan, he said.

Barrett is also watching proposed changes to the School Aid Act, which would reduce state contributions to local employees' Social Security taxes.

ANY NUMBER of tax cut proposals would be placed on the November-1992 ballot, he said. All of the proposals would affect Farmington and other wealthy districts.

Barrett said he couldn't, and wouldn't, attempt to judge how voters might react to these. It is too early to analyze the effect on the district from any of the proposed changes, he said.

"There's no use wringing our hands at this point. We just need to be as fiscally prudent as possible."

Ninety-three percent of Farmington's revenue comes from local property taxes. So any change to that system will affect the district.

BARRETT SPENT his first few weeks in the district gathering information and getting familiar with the programs here. He said he was pleased to see an "excellent morale in an area which could very easily be one of despair." He said he doesn't plan to "make revolutionary change, just for the sake of making change" and is waiting for completion of the district's financial audit so more planning can be done for the 1992-93 year.

The loss of education into the political arena is nothing new, Barrett said. "It's a school district's responsibility to be informed on what's going on at the state level. School finance reform is a very popular political agenda."



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Bruce Barrett, newly appointed assistant superintendent for finance for Farmington Public Schools, discusses pending state legislation affecting Michigan schools. "Recapture was a bombshell for this district," he said. "We heard that with the transportation issue raised by parents at the last board meeting. That's the real impact."

"Districts that are much like us, with a similar financial profile, are all going to experience this phenomenon. Most of the suburban school districts... are going to see this, indeed. We'd better get used to it."

Joe Krease dies

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fired several shots into the car window at Vortman.

Before leaving her apartment, Vortman and her roommate looked out to be sure Krease was not around. The night before he had bothered the two women, continually buzzing the doorbell.

Krease, who had a longtime relationship with Vortman, had parked his car away from Vortman's building but close enough to see her leave for work and confront her. Vortman had considered Krease an ex-boyfriend though still an acquaintance, and the two continued to play on the same wallyball team, police said.

The early morning shot brought neighbors out into the parking lot, where Green Hill resident Karen Peyer, a nurse, ran to help the couple. Krease was still alive and transported to Botsford where he underwent surgery.

"He was very self-contained, very professional and very good at what he did," said Det. Sgt. Garry Kregelka, who knew both Vortman and Krease. Krease and Vortman met each other while both were assigned to the Northville Post, Kregelka said.

"You never saw him raise his voice. He was the not the kind of person you would think would do something that violent," Kregelka said.

In November 1983 and was first stationed at the Erie Post in Monroe County. He was assigned later to the Sandusky Post in state's thumb area.

In 1973, Krease was promoted to detective sergeant and assigned to the Detroit Post. While there in the 1970s, he served as head of street operations for the Oakland County Child Killer Task Force, said Tobin, who had known Krease for 21 years.

Krease was promoted to detective lieutenant in 1988 and assigned to Northville. He retired in July 1989 and had since been working for Michigan Blue Cross-Blue Shield.

Tobin recalled Krease's work on the task force. Most notable, Tobin said, was his involvement with the victims' families. "He was just a good person to know."

But Tobin said he sensed something was wrong when information about Krease's family was edited out of talk show host Tommy McIntyre's book, "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing," on the Oakland County child killer investigation.

Tobin saw Krease not too long ago when the two joined Oakland County psychologist Jerry Tobin — who also was involved in the child killer investigation to take to students at Detroit Country Day School. "He was a very talented, very methodical man — like the good investigator he was," Tobin said.

"This is a tragedy. He was a good man in spite of what happened," he added.

KREASE JOINED the state police

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