

This week's question:

Would you cross the picket line to shop at Kroger supermarkets?

We asked this question at Fantastic Sam's and other locations in the Crossroads Shopping Center in Farmington.



'No . . . and I shop at Kroger all the time. They (the strikers) have a goal.'
— Vickie Smith
Farmington



— Renee Warneke
Farmington Hills



'I never go there anyway.' — Graco Craig
Detroit



— Patricia Vassellou
Livonia



**'No, I wouldn't cross.
It's not fair what they're
doing to their workers.'**
— Jackie Miller
Southland



— Stanley Potak
Farmington Hills

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called "BE AWARE," an acronym for Business and Education Assuring We are Responsible Electors. The seminar was sponsored by the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce, General Motors Powertrain, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and Eastern Michigan University.

One of the organizers of the event was Farmington school trustee Helen Ditzhazy, a professor at Eastern Michigan University's College of Education.

THE DAYLONG conference included informational presentations from proponents of nine different property tax and school reform plans and a debate moderated by

two local radio reporters. It was attended by educators and business leaders from Southeast Michigan who were trying to learn more about the issues.

During his keynote address, Flanagan pleaded with business people, legislators and educators to come together and face the statewide problem head-on. He said many years of school finance reform debate has worked to divide in-formula districts that get state funding from out-of-formula that derive most of their base from local property taxes, he said.

Recent state action to raid out-of-formula district coffers added fuel to the debate.

There was glee in some people's hearts because 'it finally happened

to the fat cats," Flanagan said. "All districts should have been more sensitive to the fact that we can't keep asking for more. Because if the business community falls down around our ankles it's all over."

This fall's ballot will likely be flooded with proposals for property tax cuts, some may address school finance reform, and one puts school equity language into the state Constitution. School officials throughout the state are eyeing them carefully, but are waiting to see which ones will get on the ballot before analyzing what will happen if one or all of them pass.

Flanagan said for a long time he and other educators couldn't understand why other, poorer districts could not be brought up to standards.

like Farmington, instead of dragging wealthier districts down.

• "I cannot use this argument any more, because there's a finite amount of resources we can draw

on," he said. "I believe our legislators are dealing with the toughest issues of our time."

"They've got to make 'em and they can't screw up."

He said it's up to educators to reform public schools and retrain teachers using new teaching models and technology. "We're doing that," he added.



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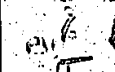
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