

School plan to stretch transportation

By Tim Smith
staff writer

Both the West Bloomfield and Walled Lake school districts are on schedule with recommendations to comply this month with the state's Schools of Choice mandate, officials said.

But the plan — designed to give students opportunities to take progressive classes not available in their home schools — is expected to hit both districts with a logistical monkey wrench, primarily in handling new transportation demands.

According to Bruce Schjolin, transportation supervisor for West Bloomfield schools, the plan could force changes to existing bus routes, require class scheduling changes to accommodate students who would take longer to reach their final destination, result in bus drivers spending more time on the road, or all of those possibilities.

"It really depends on the number of people who decide to exercise the choice," Schjolin said. "If it's only a small number of people, it won't be a major undertaking. (But) we'd have to get creative with the logistics we're already dealing with."

The state is expected to spend about \$13 million on transportation costs directly tied to districts implementing schools of choice in 1992-93. Spending that amount during times of financial uncertainty among Michigan districts is a notion that West Bloomfield Superintendent Seymour Greichko has trouble grasping.

"To spend so much money at a time when mon-

ey is scarce, to me, is questionable public policy," Greichko said. "But I don't have any difficulty providing parents as many options (for their children) as possible."

Meanwhile, Sharon Lipton, West Bloomfield board secretary, who is chairwoman of that district's school choice committee, said money should be used on education.

"Where we should be spending that money is on educating people, rather than to sit on a bus," Lipton said. "It's ridiculous."

Agreeing about how the program might negatively impact transportation is Hugh Davies, assistant superintendent of elementary education in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District and a school choice committee member.

"I think that's the most concerning part about it for most districts," said Davies, adding Walled Lake will only offer existing bus routes to students enrolled in the school choice plan. "We can't afford to send a bus to the northernmost school to pick up one child and take him to the southernmost school."

WHAT LIKELY would take place in that case, Davies said, is parents would have to "find out where the stops are and link up," making sure their children make it to the corresponding bus stop.

Lipton said West Bloomfield is luckier than a lot of districts in Michigan because it is relatively compact, minimizing transportation needs.

Those concerns aside, Lipton said another issue to be determined is whether districts have the flexibility to offer choices to students in kinder-

garten through eighth grades or only in middle schools.

"The state has not really sent any guidelines down," Lipton said.

Even without such direction, committees for both districts have been busy formulating their 1992-93 Schools of Choice recommendations.

In West Bloomfield's tentative plan, Lipton said there would be open enrollment at the middle school level. Any student could choose to attend either Abbott or Orchard Lake middle schools, which are several miles apart.

A STUDENT who normally would attend Orchard Lake could opt to attend Abbott's "Stages" magnet program for the fine arts, an Abbott student, conversely, could attend Orchard Lake, where specialization in foreign language will begin next year.

Lipton said intentions are for the school choice program to be implemented in elementary schools in 1992-93.

In Walled Lake, space would be available in all school buildings for students in the school choice program, depending on availability, said Lois Lange, administrative assistant for community relations.

"There will be a lottery system for available space at each school," Lange said. "Parents will be given information about how to apply."

Lange emphasized that students in the fast-growing district would not be bumped from their neighborhood schools by students in the school choice program.

Schools of Choice not new to districts

By Tim Smith
staff writer

The state of Michigan is mandating school districts incorporate Schools of Choice programs in 1992-93. But such offerings are nothing new in the West Bloomfield and Walled Lake districts.

Residents in both can enroll their children into several curriculum programs not yet available in their neighborhood schools.

In West Bloomfield, school board

secretary Sharon Lipton said three school choice offerings currently are available:

- At Roosevelt Elementary School, a magnet program for academically talented pupils is in place. About 100 pupils are enrolled this year and transportation to and from the Keego Harbor school is provided by the district. Admission is based on test scores and teacher recommendations, Lipton said.

- "Stages," a fine arts magnet

program at Abbott Middle School, which includes studies about art, dance, theatre and instrumental music, among others. There are no restrictions for enrollment into the program other than capacity, Lipton said.

- Parents can enroll their child into any of the district's five elementary schools as long as classroom space is available and they provide transportation to and from the school. According to Lipton, not

many are enrolled in the program.

Lois Lange, administrative assistant for community relations in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District, said several programs are already in place that "could be regarded as school of choice" offerings.

Among them are: An alternative education program at the middle school and high school levels, technical classes through the vocational ed program, she said.

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Please take notice that the following described property was seized from:
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If you or any person claiming an interest in the described property wish to challenge the seizure and forfeiture of the property or wish to claim with the seizing agency at the above address within 30 days after receipt of this notice or of the date of the first publication of this notice in the newspaper, and you desire a hearing on the matter, you must appear at the hearing on the matter and pay all the costs and expenses of the hearing proceedings. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the seizing agency will proceed to dispose of the property as provided in the Public Health Code, 1976 P.A. 368 as amended, MCL 333.7321. Failure to file a claim of interest and bond with agency within the 30 days shall cause the seized property to be declared forfeited and be disposed of as provided in law.

Publication April 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, May 6, 7, 11 and 12, 1992

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 27, 1992

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jim Grant at 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Bates, Grant, Lightman, Marks, Sever, Smith and Vagstad. Others Present: City Manager Costick, City Clerk Dornan, Assistant City Manager Call, Assistant Brock, Directors Basell, Coleman and Busch, Fire Chief Marinucci, Planning Consultant Guster and Attorney Deaneau.

MAYOR GRANT PROCLAIMED:

May, 1992 as Older Americans Month.
 April 28, 1992 as National Youth Service Day.

COUNCIL:

- Denied introduction of ordinance to resume property located on the north side of Grand River, west of Drake Road from 1002 and P-1 to 11-2 and property from 11-2 to 1002.
- Postponed consideration of request to resume property at 29338 Orchard Lake Road from B-1 to B-3 until May 11, 1992.
- Set Cost Hearing date of May 11, 1992, for Elm Grove Valley and Superiors Noble Brook Farm Subdivision road improvements.
- Received Reaffirmation Commission report and Fire Department Annual report.

APPROVED:

- Assessment roll for the Forest Park swimming pool rehabilitation.
- Enactment of ordinance amending the definition of fast food drive-in restaurants, redefining carry-out restaurants and review of districts.
- Introduction of amendment to the Water and Sewer Ordinance to accommodate dual water meters.
- Farmington Hills water supply and sewage disposal rates in effective July 1, 1992.
- Indemnification agreements relating to the South Canton lawsuit.
- Schedule of meeting dates for budget review.
- American Legion Auxiliary of the Groves-Walker Post No. 346 to conduct their annual Poppy Day Sale on May 14-16, 1992.
- City Council and study session minutes of April 13, 1992.

AWARDED BIDS FOR:

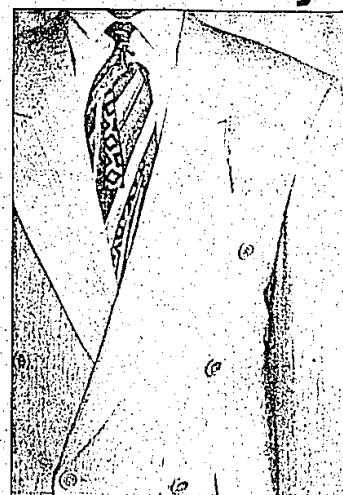
- Pavement stripping contract to J. K. Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$24,840.
- Twelve-Mile Road Maintenance to Greenlaw Corporation in the amount of \$12,858.
- Demolition of 21600 Hull and partial demolition of 25737 Orchard Lake Road to Blue Star Trucking in the amount of \$1,000.

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 a.m.

JON GRANT, Mayor
 KATHYNN A. DORNAN, City Clerk

Publication April 28, 1992

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Card & Gift Center

Hallmark cards and Lenox giftware for Mom.

Diamond Boutique

Gifts that make your dreams come true!

Fashion Bug

Fashions guaranteed to make Mom smile!

Grand Palace Chinese Restaurant

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Heritage Cleaners

Save Mom time by letting us do the work.

Kiddie Land

Gifts for Mom and Mom's-to-be at Kiddie Land.

K-mart

Smart Deals find everything for Mom at K-mart.

Koney Island Inn Family Restaurant

All Mom's love our special menu - take her out to lunch today!

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Perry Drugs

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