

Schools watch high school bubble

BY CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

In looking at the financial future of the Farmington Public Schools, officials said they are concerned about a large bubble of students which will enter high school in the coming years.

They are discussing possible building additions, and where they will get the money to build them.

Between the years 1994 and 1996, enrollment at the three high schools is expected to exceed building capacity, according to information from the district. Although total high school enrollment counts for this fall total 2,099, projections show that figure could rise to 3,089 by 1993 and as high as 3,491 by 1996.

The current building capacity is just under 3,300 students, con-

■ 'Sooner or later, we have to add space. The bubble is coming.'

*Michael Flanagan
schools superintendent*

sidering an average class size of 25.

"The situation is certainly a little scary when you look at this," said building and student services director Don Cowan. He added that the overall middle school and elementary school capacities are projected to handle the expected number of students in the next few years.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan said the school board may want to consider a bond issue for the additions, or use some earmarked in a Building and Site

Fund money to handle it. "Sooner or later, we have to add space," he said. "The bubble is coming."

Cowan predicted that the eight or nine portable classrooms now used at overcrowded middle schools and elementary schools will be able to be used at the high schools over the next few years.

Although high school enrollments are much lower than in years past, districts like Farmington have added a number of "specialty rooms" including computer labs and student television studios which reduces traditional

classroom space. Teacher/student ratios have also declined, requiring more classroom space, officials note.

Flanagan said he is unsure that upgrading the high schools will mean an addition of a traditional wing of classrooms. That would have to be determined, he said, after looking at some of the curriculum changes currently under way at the schools.

On a related issue, Cowan reported that the district's "open enrollment" policy at the three high schools, which offers students a choice of where to attend school but caps enrollment at each school, has helped to balance enrollments.

He said because of that, there may be openings at all three schools next year.

Vote from page 1A

1993 and 4 mills to expire in 1994. But increases in school income were limited to the rate of inflation by the 1978 Headlee Amendment.

The new, consolidated measure would expire in the year 2001. The district's next renewal election would likely be considered in 1996 for tax rates that would expire in 1995 and 1997.

The board is expected to set a tax rate election date and decide on ballot language at its next reg-

ular meeting.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan said Farmington would be unusual by separating the ballot proposals. Most districts, he said, attempt to gain back the entire original authorized tax rates — in Farmington's case that would be 14 mills for the three years — by using one ballot issue for a Headlee override.

"Most districts tend to go back for the full amount," he told the board. "You would already be tak-

ing a more responsible position than most boards" in going with the two-issue ballot.

Farmington officials polled other Oakland County school districts and found that in six, all tax authorizations come due at one time, three have split their tax authorizations into two blocks, and two have staggered tax rates similar to Farmington.

Board members had mixed reaction to the proposal.

"Putting all the eggs in one

basket gives us a much better position with the public," said trustee Susan Reynolds. "If we do decide to consolidate . . . it's going to take a very activist board to sell it."

Board secretary Joseph Svoke said he is concerned with the public's perception of any tax. "It makes sense to consolidate, but you run a bigger risk," he said. "My biggest concern is that, in this really a good time to do the initial consolidation?"

Sparkle This Season

Adult Exams
• Complete Dental Exam
• Cleaning
• X-Rays
\$42 New Patients Only
Expires 11/30/92
Payment due at time of service.

DR. KENNETH VELICK
Call Now for Appointment 477-5888
1821 Farmington Rd. (Between E & J Mile Rd.) Livonia

An incredible make-up and portrait session

BEFORE AFTER

Soft Impressions
Portrait Studio
Farmington 477-4107
Livonia Mall 477-3832
Meadowbrook Mall 376-1555

A gift of love, only you can give

Reg. \$29.95
NOW \$14.95
With Ad

DENTURE WEARERS

ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR DENTURES?

Although I am a general dentist, not a specialist, I have treated denture wearers and their problems for over 20 years. I may be able to help you. If you have any of the following problems: looseness, sore spots, poor lower ridge, sometimes even no lower ridge, "floating" lower denture, incorrect bite, inability to eat properly, teeth too short, or unnatural appearance.

No charge for consultation. VISA, MasterCard, and most insurance accepted.

General dentistry for children and adults, including cleaning, x-rays, fillings, cosmetic bonding, extractions, crowns, bridges, and partial dentures.

MANUEL J. KANER, D.D.S., P.C.
29911 West Six Mile Rd. (Just W. of Middlebelt Rd.) in Livonia
261-4320



Woolworth EXPRESS

WE'RE CLOSING

OUR STORE AT

20% OFF

OUR ENTIRE STOCK

LIVONIA MALL
Seven Mile and Middlebelt
LIVONIA

WALL TO WALL SAVINGS

ALL SALES FINAL!

NOTHING HELD BACK

HURRY IN WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

STORE HOURS:
Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sunday 12 noon-6 p.m.

FAMILY FUN at Borders Novi

TWO HOLIDAY CONTESTS: ENTER NOW!

Nutcracker Drawing Nov. 28 . . . Alaska Vacation Drawing Dec. 12

KIDSTUFF: Meet Amella Bedalla
And Be as Lovably Literal as She . . . Just Do Exactly as You're Told!
Saturday, November 14, 11 a.m.

NUTCRACKER DRAWING: Win Four Tickets to The Nutcracker
(Plymouth Symphony Orchestra and Plymouth-Carillon Ballet Company)
Plus Philida Gills Nutcracker Pop-Up Book (HarperCollins)
Saturday, November 28, 11 a.m.

KIDSTUFF: SIGN LANGUAGE SANTA CLAUS
Get Your Picture Taken with Saint Nick!
Saturday, December 5, 11 a.m. (Sign Language Available Until Noon)

ALASKA VACATION DRAWING: Win a Polar Express Audio Gift Set.
Be Automatically Entered in Houghton Mifflin's Family Vacation Drawing
Saturday, December 12, 11 a.m.

BORDERS BOOK SHOP
Novi Town Center (313) 347-0780

Make A Clear Choice For Better Vision.

Radial and Astigmatic Keratotomy

Surgical Correction of Nearsightedness

If you are MYOPIA (nearsighted) or have ASTIGMATISM, have tried contact lenses with limited success, are hindered by glasses either at work, social or sports activities, and are tired of the endless expense of contact lenses and solutions, **RADIAL KERATOTOMY (RK)** may be of benefit to you! Call us for a **FREE CONSULTATION**.

For more information or to schedule a free consultation with a Metropolitan Eye Surgeons Physician, call Linda at 1-800-826-EYES.

We invite you to join us **Friday, November 13th at 8:30 p.m.**, at 5813 W. Maple Road, Suite 137, West Bloomfield, MI. Please bring glasses or lens prescription with you.

Metropolitan Eye Surgeons
Radial Keratotomy Specialists
Contact Lens Consultants

Donald S. Beser, M.D., F.A.C.S. and Robert D. Beltman, M.D., F.A.C.S.
5813 W. Maple Road • Suite 137 • West Bloomfield, MI • 313-855-3346
5728 Whitmore Lake Road • Brighton, MI • 313-227-2158