

Rich, poor districts back O/K school finance plan

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

A Bloomfield Hills mother stood beside a Redford Township father Tuesday as educators launched a petition drive to get school finance reform and property tax relief in Michigan.

Tuesday's union of educators from both rich and poor school districts to support the Olmsted/Kearney Proposal marks the first time both out-of-formula and in-formula districts have come together to solve Michigan's mounting school finance crisis.

Present at the launching of the petition drive in the Redford

Union School District administrative offices were Bloomfield Hills resident Cynthia Vonoeven, who lives in a richer district which spends about \$8,600 per student, and Gary Belanger, a trustee on the Redford Union Board of Education who lives in a poorer district which spends about \$4,200 per student.

They were surrounded by educators from Berkley, Southfield, South Redford, Livonia, Garden City, Wayne County and districts from outstate Michigan.

All stood in support of the O/K proposal, which if adopted would cut school millage rates across the

state and force the state to spend more to fund public education.

"We've been waiting for this day, waiting for the final language on the petition," said Vonoeven, who serves as chairwoman of a citizens' committee to get petition signatures in Bloomfield Hills.

"We support this because it stops recapture, something that has cost Bloomfield Hills \$10 million in the last three years.

"The bottom line is that this helps the taxpayers in Bloomfield Hills. But it also helps kids. Kids who are being educated today are our future for tomorrow, whether they live in Bloomfield Hills or

Redford Union."

Unity's new

Belanger estimated the proposal would save every Redford Union homeowner \$300 a year. "The concept of unity in new school finance reform," Belanger said. "We speak in one voice which can't be ignored. There's something in this for everyone."

Proponents started the petition drive one day before the Michigan Legislature begins its new session. Backers have six months to get the 205,000 valid signatures needed to present the petitions to the Michigan Legislature.

Lawmakers then have 40 days to either approve it or reject it. If the proposal is not approved, it will appear on the 1994 ballot.

Affixed Tuesday were the first of the 270,000 signatures being sought. Petitions are available at local school district offices.

The O/K plan, named after former Detroit school board member David Olmsted and University of Michigan professor Phil Kearney, would limit all district operating levies to 30 mills.

"It reduces reliance on the property tax," said Redford Union superintendent Ken Johnson. "Redford Union now levies 40.03 mills. This would be rolled back to 30 mills and the state would pick up the rest. It's a 26 percent reduction in property taxes for Redford Union residents."

Livonia Public Schools' millage would drop from 32 mills to 30

mills, with the state making up the "eight difference," said school spokesman Jack Kirksey. Like Vonoeven, Livonia school trustee Sue Thompson praised the proposal for eliminating recapture and tax-base sharing.

Namesakes present

Both Olmsted and Kearney were present for the launching of the petition drive.

"Whenever we talk about education someone always asks, 'what happened to the lottery money?'" Olmsted said. "This will force the state to redeem the lottery promise."

The proposal, phased in over six years, would force the state to fund education with the proceeds from the Michigan Lottery.

The proposal does not call for a tax increase; neither does it say where the state would get the money to reimburse districts.

Patterson hires ex-Lion as driver

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

Rich Strenger, who used to clear holes for Billy Sims as a member of the Detroit Lions, has a new job blocking for a different kind of running back, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.

Strenger, who left football with a knee injury in 1989, was hired last week to work as Patterson's driver, bodyguard and workman's compensation claim investigator.

The job was held by Archie Rose in the Murphy administration, who still works for the county, but in another job.

Strenger, who at 6 foot 7 inches tall and 270 pounds will never be mistaken for Pee Wee Herman, recently graduated from Oakland Community College's police academy.

He met Patterson at some charity events while still playing for the Lions and "was pretty pleased

that he wanted me on board (at the county)."

The one worth waiting for...Steve Petix Clothiers

SEMI-ANNUAL CLEARANCE Sale

ENDS JANUARY 30, 1993

SUITS & SPORT COATS
20 to 50% off
Sale Prices From \$325⁰⁰

DRESS SHIRTS
Entire Stock of
Hathaway
30% off

Jhane Barnes, Krizia,
Giorgio, Paolo, St.
Croix, Countess Mara,
Heartland, Jack Lipson

In Plymouth
340 S. Main
459-6972



STEVE PETIX
CLOTHIER

TOP COATS
30% off
Sale Prices From \$325⁰⁰

SWEATERS
40% off
Sale Prices From \$75⁰⁰

SPORT SHIRTS
30% off
Sale Prices From \$30⁰⁰

In Beverly Hills
31455 Southfield
645-5560

RED TICKET CLEARANCE

2nd pair

DON'T
MISS IT!

\$1

LOOK FOR
THE RED TAGS!
Example of your savings:
Comparative price \$30
El-Bee original
low price 24.99
Red ticket
clearance price \$16
Second pair \$1
TWO PAIR TOTAL \$17

SALE

ONE WEEK ONLY!

Buy one pair,
the second pair is only \$1

Thousands of clearance shoes for men and women
originally sold for up to \$80. Save up to 75%
off the original comparative!

■ STACY ADAMS ■ STREET CARS ■ WRANGLER
■ NIKE ■ L.A. GEAR ■ CONNIE ■ CALICO ■ TROTTERS
■ RAFAEL BLANTINI ■ ISPRIT ■ COBBIE ■ MICHAEL
FINELLI ■ PICO ■ BOSTONIAN ■ WOLVERINE
■ PAPPAGALLO ■ JOYCE ■ FOOTSTEP ■ SUGARFOOT
■ MAINE WOODS ■ FASHIONS BY BONITO ■ TURNTEC

No price adjustments on prior purchases. Brands and sizes may vary by store. Both pairs of shoes must be red ticket clearance items. Second pair must be of equal or lesser value.

El-Bee SHOE OUTLETS

FAMOUS
BRANDS
FOR LESS

Sale prices effective thru Monday, January 18

■ HAMPTON CROSSING SHOPPING CENTER
2747 South Rochester Rd., Rochester Hills
■ BLOOMFIELD TOWNE SQUARE 2185 Telegraph Rd.
■ BURLINGTON SQUARE SHOPPING CENTER
22283 Eureka Rd. (across from Southland Mall)

■ WEST OAKS SHOPPING CENTER
43484 West Oak Dr. (across from Twelve Oaks Mall)
■ WESTLAND CROSSINGS SHOPPING CENTER
(across from Westland Mall)
■ UNIVERSAL MALL
20770 Dequindre Road

WE ACCEPT MASTERCARD ■ VISA ■ DISCOVER ■ ELDER-BEERMAN CHARGES

nigosian's ORIENTAL RUG CLEARANCE

Our Entire Multi-Million Dollar Collection is

40-70% Off

Nigosian's Oriental Rug Co. is clearing out its entire stock of quality hand woven imports to make space for upcoming shipments. Every size, every color, every rug in stock has been reduced 40 - 70% to clear them out fast. There will not be a better time to buy this year, so hurry to the Nigosian location nearest you.

nigosian's
ORIENTAL RUG CO.

Established 1970

BIRMINGHAM

DEARBORN
21919 Michigan Avenue
West Dearborn, MI 48124
Phone (313) 277-1330

Both Locations
M, Th 10 - 8
T, W, F, & 10 - 6
Sunday 12 - 5

808 South Woodward
Birmingham, MI 48009
Phone (313) 644-7750