

Parents

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banian-speaking students. More than 50 Albanian students use services provided by the district's Bilingual Program. Lucj said there are 200 Albanian-American students in Farmington schools, including his son, who attends Farmington Harrison.

Limited English proficient students are entitled to a bilingual teacher under a Supreme Court ruling and state Public Act 294.

'I would take exception . . . with the assertion that the district is interested in only hiding children who are not homogenized middle American students. Nothing could be farther from the case.'

C. Robert Maxfield
superintendent

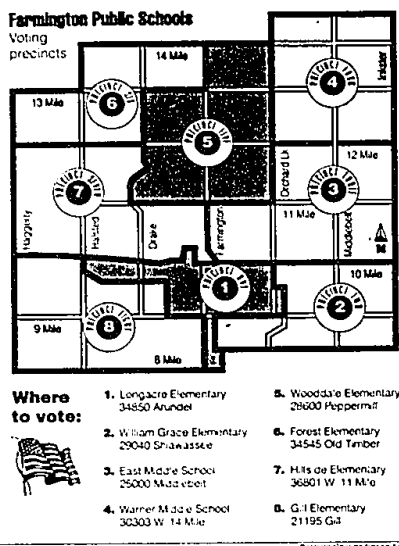
according to Kelmendi. He also said the money the district spends on six paraprofessionals could be used to hire a certified Albanian-speaking teacher.

Lucj also spoke out at the May 17 board meeting, citing efforts in 1989 to get the district to hire a certified Albanian teacher. Maxfield said then he'd arrange a meeting with district officials.

"Now I hear you're willing to meet us halfway," Kelmendi said Tuesday. "Until now, we have not heard anything of the sort."

Lucj met Monday with Judy White, assistant superintendent for Curriculum and Staff Development.

"I told him to bring as many people as he wanted, and only one person showed up," White said.



Election

from page 1A

tive the OCC (Oakland Community College) candidates have been. . . I really don't have a feel for this one.

Even with three hopefuls, the campaign has been a low-key affair.

No signs have been reported stolen (mainly because candidates don't have them out), or clandestine inquiries into the school attendance of candidates' children or school board members openly campaigning for people other than incumbents.

There was only one candidate forum, sponsored by the League

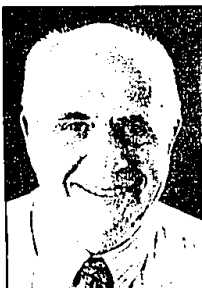
of Women Voters Oakland Area, and it was a model of civility.

Eight precincts will be in operation June 13. Wooddale Elementary has a new entrance to allow easier access for voters, Rothrock said.

The usual voting rules apply.

People cannot carry literature, buttons or clothing of a campaign nature inside the precinct. Candidates and their supporters can pass out literature, but not within 100 feet of the polling station.

"They really respect it," Rothrock said. "One reason is we have a sign marking off 100 feet."



R. Jack Inch



Kenneth Stein



Cathleen Webb

Inch, Stein, Webb square off at forum

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

In a recent candidates forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters Oakland Area, hopefuls for the Farmington Board of Education gave their views on several school-related topics.

Cathleen Webb, R. Jack Inch and Kenneth Stein are running for two open seats on the board. The election is Monday, June 13.

Here are some of the things they had to say:

What is your opinion of the effectiveness of the multicultural/multiracial committee?

Webb: "I'm very impressed and pleased we have a multicultural, multiracial committee in our community. They have taken great strides. Certainly they have a long way to go. An exciting out-branch of this committee is something that we have in the community called student roundtable. And they have made an initiative to begin interacting with peers

within their own schools, and who are going to go through district training with our staff this summer."

Inch: "In the time I've been on the board, Farmington was previously one culture community. As time has gone by with the meeting of various ethnic groups, the Farmington board and administration has taken steps to make this as smooth a policy as possible. . . . At the present time, with the committee, we seem to be on top of it."

Stein: "I believe if we look to surrounding communities such as West Bloomfield where there has been some serious, serious problems with the issue of multiculturalism. I believe we need to celebrate diversity. We need to recognize that all people cannot be the same. The committee is working very hard to get that job done. We still have a long way to go. I believe that high schoolers, middle schoolers and elementary students, really, are just beginning to understand that it's OK for other people to be different.

We need to work extremely hard to make people feel they can be really proud of where they come from, but also respect others to make sure we don't have violence in our school system."

How will the new state funding affect Farmington?

Inch: "During the first year, 94-95, the effect appears to be a wash compared to the past funding systems. We will be getting the money from the state rather than from local taxes. We are now an in-formula school district again. After 94-95, the question is going to be: 'Will the state live up to its commitment to fully fund education?' I think what bothers many people in this community is that in the past the state Legislature has not lived up to its responsibility. In the time I've been on the board, the state has constantly been a day late and a dollar short with the funds available at the local level.

See CANDIDATES, 8A

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