

C'ville suspends on-site suspension room decision

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

Despite an enthusiastic report from principal David Simowski, the Clarenceville Board of Education wants to look at facts and figures before giving the go-ahead to continue an on-site suspension room at Clarenceville High.

The trustees want to know how many students were sent to the room during its pilot year and how many were repeat offenders. They also want to know the criteria Simowski uses in judging the

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At their July 7 board meeting, the trustees will decide whether to continue funding a paraprofessional to staff the room. Clarenceville includes northeast Livonia, southeast Farmington Hills, and northwest Redford.

The trustees last year approved the on-site suspension room on a one-year, trial basis. They also approved the hiring of a paraprofessional to supervise the suspension room and to help students who are sent there with their homework.

At Thursday's board meeting, Simowski asked to have the program continued.

"Exemplary schools don't send kids home to empty, unsupervised houses when they make mistakes," Simowski said. "That's the worst of all disciplinary measures. This has been an

Before Clarenceville launched the on-site suspension room, students suspended from school were sent home.

After the trustees approved the

program, suspended students were sent to a special room in the high school. There, they sat at a desk in silence and, supervised by a paraprofessional, spent the day doing homework. Trips outside the room were kept to a minimum.

Simowski said the room sees few repeat offenders.

He also said the number of suspendable offenses has decreased because some students actually did things because they wanted to be sent home for three days.

"When they spend the day in the room working, they are cut off socially," Simowaki said. "At this point they'd rather attend class."

Students sent to the room have been charged with such offenses as missing double detentions, truancy, smoking, insubordination, repeated violations of school rules, or infractions of the Student Code of Conduct.

Students suspended for such major violations as possession of drugs, alcohol or weapons or for

fighting are not sent to the room but instead serve their suspensions out of school.

Students may be assigned up to three days of on-site suspension. Hours are the same as for the high school. Students receive credit for work done while on suspension.

Suspended students aren't allowed to attend assemblies or extracurricular activities.

Students can bring only text books and other educational material into the room.

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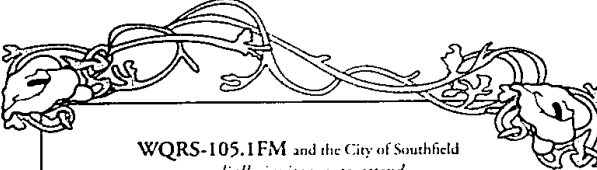
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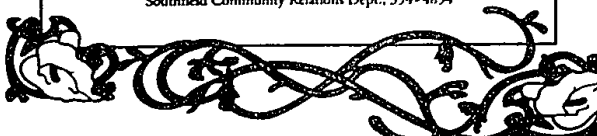
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