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Sen. Leon Stille of Spring Lake and Doug Carl of Mount Clemens to put much space between themselves and Gov. John Engler, who called for repeal of the School Code in his "State of the State" message last winter.

In fact, Stille, the chair, and Carl, the vice-chair, even distanced themselves from Senate Majority Leader Dick Posthumus, who in February issued a new release prematurely announcing, "Senate Republicans repeal School Code."

"From my viewpoint, the gears have changed. We're headed toward revision rather than change," said Stille, a freshman senator and former IBM marketing manager.

"The notion of repealing the

School Code did not come from the Senate," added Carl, the Legislature's best known conservative fundamentalist.

"Village Idiots"

Dissenting was Patricia Alspaack, a Farmington parent who blamed "village idiots" for state school standards. The seventh-grade state MEAP test contains a story written at the fourth-grade level, she said, calling for Michigan's use of national standards. Alspaack blistered the adulation of "diversity" in public schools because "United we stand; divided we fall." She debunked "multiculturalism" because "whites are lumped into one group" — whether they're English, Scottish, German or New Yorkers.

"I'm fighting (low school stand-

ards) while other parents pull their kids out of public schools," she said — to the applause of one person.

Michigan's frequently amended, 1800-section School Code provides for the organization, governance, teacher certification, school accreditation, and academic requirements for the 560-plus K-12 public school districts. There's wide agreement it's too detailed and cumbersome, requiring too much paperwork. Beyond that, political interest groups are all over the map.

Privates dependent

Debbra Lang, a Bloomfield Hills administrator speaking for Oakland curriculum directors, accused the Legislature of "creating a hostile environment for pub-

lic education." Private schools depend on public schools for special education, consultants, psychologists, drug education and pupil transportation, but then boast they're better.

Lang cited an unnamed private school charging \$11,400 per-pupil tuition that "couldn't afford" to teach a handicapped youngster. She added, "His MEAP test scores will be lumped in with ours."

Darlene Janulis, Rochester School Board member, was one of many voices asking for retention of teacher certification standards — another of Gov. Engler's targets. "Teaching is a gift. To presume, because you have a forte for math, that you can teach it — no," said Janulis.

"Teacher certification can't be

a local issue," added Farmington Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

The State Board of Education currently is working on high school proficiency tests in four areas: communications (speaking and writing), math, sciences and social sciences. Some educators said the list should be longer.

"The academic core curriculum is too narrow," said Bloomfield Hills' Lang, suggesting vocational preparation and fine arts be added.

David Harris of the Oakland Intermediate School District proposed adding fine arts, health and physical education, languages and applied technology to the "big four." He added, "Economic illiteracy is a luxury we can no longer afford."

No parochial

Karen Miller, Southfield School Board member, was one of several urging the continued ban on "parochial" — proposed state aid to private and church-related schools. That line was often applauded. Sen. Carl, sponsor of a constitutional amendment to lift the parochial ban, didn't comment.

Mark Katz, Berkley School Board member, had a technical idea that could save school districts money: Allow schools to establish "lines of credit" at their banks, so they would pay interest only on what they borrow rather than have to borrow a fixed sum, whether they need the total or not.

March of Dimes walkers net \$1.3 million for babies

They hit the road for healthy babies by the thousands.

Whether they did it for fun, for exercise, for their company team or for their health, Farmington area residents took to the streets last Sunday during the 25th annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica 1995. This year's Walk drew 15,000 participants, raising \$1.3 million for the March of Dimes Campaign for Healthier Babies.

Farmington Hills hosted one of the 14 Southeast Michigan WalkAmerica sites. The walkers kicked off the 20-kilometer trek from Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills. More than 1,500 people walked in Farmington Hills, raising \$125,000.

"The people of Southeast Michigan have again demonstrated their commitment to helping every child have a healthy start in life. We are thrilled with the success of this 25th Anniversary WalkAmerica," said John Marshall, March of Dimes chapter chairman.

"WalkAmerica provides an opportunity for people to help the March of Dimes continue its programs of research, education and advocacy, which aid in the fight against birth defects and the reduction of the infant mortality rate."

More than 1,000 teams representing metro-area companies, clubs and organizations went the distance for healthier babies during Sunday's walk. Kmart, the 1995 WalkAmerica national retail sponsor, is the top-ranked team in the country.

Teams walking in Farmington Hills were: Kroger, EDS, Weight Watchers, and Fitness Factory.

Walkers were asked to secure pledges for each kilometer they walked. Each of the 14 walk routes were set up with checkpoints offering entertainment, refreshments, snacks and first-aid. Victory Vans were available along the route for walkers who chose not to walk the entire 20 kilometers.

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where his daughter once served as board member. He could not be reached for comment.

"Get me a site where thousands of cars will pass by and (the drivers will) say, 'That's what the Jews did,'" said Kogan, quoted in The Jewish News.

"Middlebelt Road is not that kind of a road. I am not crazy about Middlebelt Road."

An area near the Jewish Community Center at Maple and Drake roads in West Bloomfield was considered. It is three miles from the present site. The land would not be available in time needed for the expansion, officials said.

Instead, ground will be broken in June for the initial \$11 million expansion project announced last year.

The 28,000-square foot addition will increase capacity by 100 students. Some 635 students attend Hillel, which offers a lower school for grades one through five and an upper school for grades six

through eight. Plans include adding a media center, gymnasium, as well as computer and science laboratories.

So far, the school has raised \$7 million from private donations through its ongoing "Generations Campaign." Hillel spokeswoman Midge Stulberg said.

"That (\$5 million) would have put us over the top," Stulberg said. "That would have given us a healthy endowment."

Some officials are still hopeful Kogan will donate some money to the school.

Former Hillel president Arlene Tilchin said there has been a lot of rumors and misinformation about Kogan's offer.

"Here is a man who has generously offered the school some money, and it looks like we're not being appreciative," said Tilchin, a Farmington resident. "And that's because of the misinformation out there."

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