

Maxfield gains 3-percent raise

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

Three percent says Farmington Public Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield had a good debut year. But that's only green paper with deceased presidents talking.

The first-year schools chief apparently has 100 percent backing of the Farmington Board of Education, which has given him a 3-percent pay increase and added another year onto his contract taking him through 1998.

The raise comes in light of sterling marks from the board's Superintendent Evaluation Committee earlier this year. Maxfield joined the district in March last year, coming from Berkeley schools.

His annual base salary increases to \$121,540 from \$118,000. He also has use of a leased car and a term-life insurance policy.

As a first, Maxfield was also rewarded with a 3-percent tax-deferred stipend.

"It puts him in line with other administrators in the district who have TDAs (tax-deferred annuity)," said board president Cathy Webb.

"... We thought this is totally fair for someone who has done a nice job."

Board members Jack Inch, Bobbie Feldman and Dave York served on a compensation committee. Those three, along with Maxfield, worked on developing the evaluation process.

Instead of a checklist, Maxfield was judged on a portfolio that included examples of how he completed goals the board set for him.

"We still have a mutual admiration society," Maxfield said. "I'm pleased with what they have done; they're pleased with what I have done. It's a good team."

In his first year, Maxfield completed a reorganization of the central office and helped start the district's strategic planning process, Mission 2007. The district and all its employee unions also reached contract agreements.

Maxfield and the board are developing goals for next year.

Target areas will likely include: board relations, strategic planning process, collaborative initiatives, consistency in curriculum and academic achievement, facilities planning, community involvement and employee relations.

Maxfield oversees the fifth-largest district in Oakland County with 11,656 students and an operating budget of \$81.7 million. The average superintendent's salary in Oakland County is \$102,136, according to a Michigan Association of School Boards survey.



C. Robert Maxfield

Driving from page 1A

Farmington Families In Action, which co-sponsored the area appearance with the financial help of Bob Saks of Farmington Hills — Dodge, complained to the company that runs the Neon Drum Driving Simulator Program, Enberg said. Enberg is also involved in FFIA.

"I think it was a situation where a few kids got an idea and they thought it would be funny, and made some bad decisions based on it," said Enberg, who was there when the demonstration stopped at 9:30 a.m.

"We didn't think it was handled correctly," she said. "No adults on the premises were involved."

The crew chief's actions came partly because some of the students were not taking the message seriously, said a spokeswoman that handles public relations for the Neon Drum Driving Simulator.

"A couple of kids got out of hand," said Heather Shimkos of Visual Services in Bloomfield Hills. "We didn't want them or the equipment to be destroyed."

Shimkos said they will be contacting school officials to reschedule another visit.

"We want to turn it into a positive experience for those kids," she said. "... I'm sure everything will be fine the next time around."

Dean said disciplinary action will likely be taken against the one offender, who is described as a senior.

"The kid denied doing it, but it was on a straightaway," Dean said.

A similar demonstration took place at North Farmington High Thursday. Some 800 students participated without incident.

"It went real well," North Principal Deborah Clarke said. "It was a great opportunity for our kids."

Commission accomplishment: center

Establishment of a volunteer center was the major accomplishment of the Farmington Hills Commission on Children, Youth and Families, which presented its annual report to the city council last week.

The center, located in the Farmington Hills Activities Center, has 125 people registered to volunteer and more than 105 volunteer job opportunities have been listed with the volunteer center by 32 agencies.

The commission has also sponsored a number of activities to support its mission of encouraging an "environment where children, youth and families are happy, healthy, educated, safe and have the opportunity to reach their full potential."

These include safe kids night on May 13; family nights at the activities center last fall and winter; a teen program every Friday at the Farmington YMCA; family day in the park last August; and fifth and sixth-graders meeting on the first Friday of every month.

Members of the commission are chairman Todd Lips, Betty Arnold, high school students Elizabeth Borghi and Beth Philippoff, Richard Dagunno, police chief William Dwyer, Gerry Gilhuly, Debra Kondziarski, Sharon McDonald, Karen McKenzie, Judge Maria Parker, Mary Jane Peck, Joanne Ratanathurthorn, Mandi Skeegan, captain Homer Smith, Mark Sommers, Cathy Webb, and resource people Kelly Masters, Lucine Toroyan and Sandra Wilkie.

Schools plan for new students

Some 50 students, who aren't enrolled yet, will be moved from Wood Creek to Forest Elementary in the Farmington District.

Three new developments in the Halsted area between 13 Mile and 14 Mile — Chelsea Crossing, Halsted Hills and Secluded Lane — will bring 100 single detached condos.

School officials figure one-half student for every single detached unit. That would mean about 50 additional students, who would have gone to Wood Creek. Instead, they'll attend Forest, which is 60-70 students under capacity.

Construction has started on Chelsea Crossing. School officials are working with the Farmington Hills Planning Commission, said Don Cowan, executive director of Kindergarten through Grade 12 Instruction and Student Services.

Officials are monitoring development at Middlebelt and 12 Mile. Some 165 single family units are expected there in three years.

"We have some time yet," Cowan said.



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Farmington Observer


(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric, Inc., 33411 Grand River, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-4750. Second class postage paid at Farmington Hills, MI. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Inc., 33411 Grand River, Farmington Hills, MI 48331-4750. Telephone 481-1100.

Subscription Rates: \$47.00 per copy (12 issues) per year. \$15.00 per copy (12 issues) per year. \$15.00 per copy (12 issues) per year.

Home Delivery Service: \$47.00 per copy (12 issues) per year. \$15.00 per copy (12 issues) per year. \$15.00 per copy (12 issues) per year.

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THE Observer

NEWSPAPERS


ATTITUDES TOWARD BIRTH CONTROL PILLS

In 1985, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists commissioned a survey to gauge women's attitudes toward birth control pills. In January of 1994, a similar nationwide Gallup Poll of 997 women was again undertaken to see how attitudes had changed. The results show that 86% of women overall (91% of women on birth control pills) do not believe that the "pills" are safe enough to purchase without a doctor's prescription. Fifty-four percent of women (versus 76% in 1985) believe that there are substantial risks associated with taking the pills. Twenty-nine percent cite cancer as the chief risk, while 41% of the women believe the pills provide no other health benefits other than pregnancy prevention, only six percent are aware that the pills provide protection against cancer.

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P.S. All in all, it can be said that women view birth control pills to perfect associated with substantial health risks than they did in 1985.

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