

Schools from page 13A

were promised. However, the majority of voters in the Walled Lake School District had something else in mind. Since October, 1993, voters have rejected three bond issues. Despite a growing enrollment of nearly 500 new students per year, the anti-bond sentiment amongst voters is fervent. Aware of this sentiment, the Walled Lake School Board will not begin to speculate when the next bond issue will be put to referendum.

The combination of a burgeoning enrollment along with three bond failures has led to serious overcrowding. As a result, the Walled Lake School Board has leased Meadow Lake Elementary

School from the Birmingham School District. Children as young as five years old are bused to the facility, located more than three miles beyond the Walled Lake School District's eastern-most border.

They are bused through inter-sections that cross either 13 or 14 Mile roads at Haggerty, Halsted, Drake, Farmington, Orchard Lake, Northwestern Highway, Middlebelt and Inlander Road. In addition, our children are standing at their bus stops one hour earlier than in previous years.

Furthermore, six Farmington Hills elementary schools are passed en route to Meadow Lake while travelling 13 or 14 Mile

roads. It should be noted that class sizes at Meadow Lake have increased by as much as 20 percent from those at Maple Elementary, their former school. Moreover, fewer books, reference materials and computers are available.

The parents of these children pay taxes which are spent to clear snow from Farmington Hills roads so that Farmington Hills school busses can safely reach Farmington Hills schools. These same parents pay property taxes that support the infra-structure of all Farmington Hills public schools. Yet, the children of these parents are denied the opportunity to attend their neighborhood

schools. Gov. John Engler, along with our State Legislature and State School Board, have promised to bring the issue of expanded educational choices to the forefront of the political arena. Given the antiquated and illogical methods used to administer education, reform is long overdue.

An intermediate step broadening the concept of schools of choice could be attained by enacting legislation that would allow taxpayers the choice of sending their children to the school district in the city in which they live and pay their base property taxes. No fair-minded individual or organization would deny children

the fundamental right to attend their neighborhood schools. In the words of Charles F. Kettering, "The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress." The time for educational reform is now. We cannot allow our children's educational future to be compromised by a system that is outdated, impractical, and contradictory to common sense.

Bussing school children seven miles through three cities and across four school districts while passing six neighborhood schools serves to illustrate the desperate need for reform. If you agree that parents who pay taxes in the city in which they live should have the

right to send their children to neighborhood schools located in their community, I urge you to contact your state legislators. In Farmington Hills, your State Senator is Dave Honigman who can be reached at (617) 373-1768. Your State Representative is Jan Dolan who can be reached at (617) 373-1793.

The time is now to wrestle away control from arrogant, power-hungry, money-grabbing school boards and administrators, and allow parents the freedom to choose what is best for their children. Our children are our future, and our future is today.

Raymond Dubin is a 11-year Farmington Hills resident.

Fashion from page 13A

Bevan-Pikus, 12-Oaks Mall Liz Claiborne general manager. Garbardine and crepe; plaids, subtle stripes and tone-on-tone are the most popular fabrics.

"This year Liz has done some different things, because they have included fur and leather outerwear," Bevan-Pikus said. "A year ago we started a line called Night, that is just strictly evening and we have added shoes and accessories."

Evening wear ranges from mini-length cocktail dresses to full-length formals with beading and accents.

"I think Liz Claiborne has up-

dated," she said. "It's a very traditional line, but this fall there's new styles and new colors. People who have been here for years are going and ahing this line."

Dusty rose, deep amethyst and black are some of the colors for fall, according to Bevan-Pikus adding that jackets are more feminine than they have been recently with belts and button detailing.

Tickets, \$30, are on sale at the Longacre House, 24705 Farmington Road north of 10 Mile Road. For more information about the fashion show or The Longacre House call 477-8404.

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