

Rings and things: Tim Salley and his fiancee of several minutes, Michele Mead, look at

District muscled by court ruling to pick up retirees' health bills possibly due to the charterization of private schools, while a fixed amount of school aid is available.

Was that a sigh of relief or resignation at Farmington Public Schools central office?
Hard to tell with the ruling in the State Supreme Court case of Musselman vs. Gov. John Engler, which makes local school districts pick up the bill for retireur health benefits.
Farmington Public Schools. Assistant Superintendent for Finance Cheryl Cannon greeted the news with mixed optimism.
For the time being we don't have to pre-fund retirement, which is good news in the short run," Cannon said. Thut in the long run, we still have to pay for it.

The district carmarked \$8.7 million — 14.6 percent of salaries — for retireus health and pension in this year's budget. Next year, that figure increases by \$557,000 in 15.45 percent.

Additional retirement costs take a bite out of the projected \$1.2 million in state aid Farmington expects to receive. Also, 456,600 in professional development money has been cut, Cannon said.

Instead of a 2.5 percent increase in state aid, Farmington will likely see. 7 percent raise, which is a \$63,000 raise.

"We're lucky at this point we don't have to make reductions, said Cannon, who received an update at a Michigan School Business Officials meeting Friday. "People from other districts were shaking their heads. We have a sufficient fund balance to carry us through times like these."

Local school officials may be disappointed but shouldn't have been shocked at the state Supreme Court's coatly decision in the so-called Musselman case.

"The state is pushing it (school retires headth benefits) off on the locals. There will be

less dollars at the local level," said Justin King of the Michigan Association of School Boards.

"We estimate the annual manners with the up to 20 percent of salary. They're 16 percent now," said King, "You'd better hudget for a minimum of 19 percent so you're not blindsided," he recalled telling the 562 school districts last May.

Those who budgeted accordingly will be safe. Those who didn't budget will be harting. Total cost to the districts \$500,000 or more.

"I assume the educational community will ray to the Legislature, Look, there's a need for additional state resources," said King, But he didn't sound confident they'll get it.

Big winner in the Musselman case was state government — the governor and Legislature. They won't have to pre-pay retirees health benefits, a practice started in the 1980s, pared back under Gov. James Blanchard and halted entirely by Gov. John Engler.

Big losers:

1. Michigan Education Association, which filed the suit on behalf of Ann Musselman and other retirees. They argued such benefits were a constitutional right.

2. School districts, which must pick up the casts on a pay-aa-youge hasis out of their \$5,500 foundation grants. They have 4 or 5 percent less to spend on staff, equipment, books and huses.

Engler's budgeting theory is to write any agency a lump-sum check and strip as many line items as possible out of the state budget. Retirees' health benefits were such a line item.

Meanwhile, Arthur Ellis, superintendent of public instruction, is expected to announce around Feb. 20 that per-pupil state aid will be cut. Reason: The number of pupils has jumped,

Yes from page 1A

"I just wanted to do something we'd always remember," said prospective bridegroom Tim Salley, who graduated from North Farmington High in 1990 and from Michigan State University last apring. "My personality is such that I never do things in an ordinary way."

Bruce Salley agreed. "He was in a fraternity at MSU and they did all sorts of cray things."

Tim Salley and Mead have jobs in the medical field. Salley works for Becker Orthopedics, a company that makes equipment that helps in the treatment of bone and joint disorders. Mead, a recent transplant from lowa, is a nurse at Detroit's Sinai Hospital.

"They met in October," said Tim's mother, Gail Salley, also on hand to see the guestion popped. "They went out on one date and they've been together ever since."

Following Mead's answer in affirmative, the group ("There was about 20 of us," said Bruce Salley) repaired to The Cocker Bar and Grill in Novi, site of that first date in October.

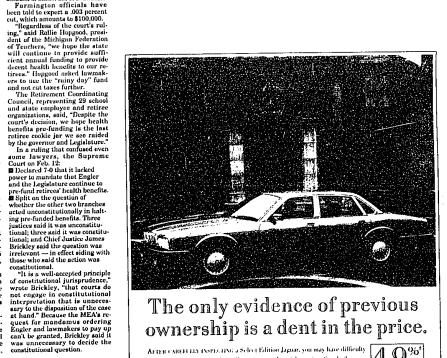
"I' was just overcome." said Tim Salley, recalling the event. "She was sue some. She was intelligent she was beautiful she was funny. I was just blown away."



Social climber: A tuxedo-clad Tim Salley doesn't let a little snow stop him from reaching sweetheart Michelle Mead with a proposal of marriage.



Guess what, Mom7: Michelle Mead calls her mother in Iowa, while the Salley clan — brother Todd (left), Tim, nephew Ricky Hallet
— and family friend Bill Hass savor the moment.



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AGENDAS

Below are highlights from the agen-das of meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

FARMINGTON CITY COUNCIL CITY HALL, 474-8500 8 P.M. MONDAY, FEB. 19

AGENDA ITEMS DICLUDE: An activities update by Miss Farmington Audrey Chernauc-

ks.

Consideration to approve administration security person for the 47th District Court.

Consideration to approve second annual Trout Derby.

Consideration of resolution to

support Lakelands Trail Bike Path Project.

Consider resolution of support for Oakland County's Enhanced

Access Project.

Consideration to see policy and fees for use of Shiawas Park Pavilion.

FARMINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION LEWIS SCHULMAN BUILDING, 488-3300 8 P.M. TUESDAY, FEB. 20

ARENDA ITEMS DICLUDE:

School presentation by Farmington High.

Presentation on community

survey results by Craig Ruff of Public Sector Consultants.

Consider appointment of Plante & Moran as auditor.

Consider approval of district participation in the Internation-

participation in the international Academy school-of-choice program for high school students.

Consider approval of Oakland Family Services lease agreement for property at 23460 Middlebelt

Consider approval of the ongoing frameworks process.

Award of bids for fixed asset

appraisal, band uniforms, musi-cal instruments, and non-linear video equipment