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ing seven neighbor kids come to the door selling the same thing." Ebberg added that district officials "have known for several years that fund-raisers are becoming more popular ... As they came up in greater numbers, we felt we needed some clarity."

Webb cited one particular complaint for getting Policy 5170 off the ground. She said a parent complained last year that in-school fund-raisers such as the American Heart Association's "Jump Rope for Heart" raised peer pressure to participate to an unhealthy level.

"The gist of the parent's complaint," Webb said, "was, if a student didn't want to participate in a fund-raiser, that student could feel peer pressure (from classmates)."

The complaint was forwarded

to attorneys at the Oakland Intermediate School District and, in turn, was moved to legal counsel for the Michigan Association of School Boards, Webb said.

Subsequently, a legal opinion was rendered by MASH attorney Linda Brain. Her opinion stated that the district, by allowing fund-raising to continue in classrooms, was at risk of violating the First Amendment right for freedom of association - the right that allows an individual to decide yes or no about who or what to associate with.

"And so, our interpretation was we won't allow this to go on during class," Webb said.

During December, principals from across the district will convene to brainstorm ways for student fund-raising to take place without violating the new policy.

"We don't want fund-raising to

stop," explained Webb. "Now it's up to the principals and administrators to iron this out and figure out a legal way to do it."

That could mean announcements over the public address system before the school day begins or letters mailed to students' homes, to let students know of fund-raisers in the works. And students probably would be allowed to solicit and collect donations for charities before and after school, between classes or during lunch.

Students may also participate in fund-raisers for "school-sponsored activities," such as for school PTAs and bands, for example. But those efforts also cannot take place during instructional time and must be pre-approved by building administrators.

Although the policy was deemed necessary from a legal

perspective, it could wreak havoc on such worthy causes as "Jump Rope For Heart," which now will have to be scheduled after school or on weekends, instead of during the regular school day. Even holiday food and toy drives, such as those currently being done by the Goodfellows, are being impacted.

"It will continue (this year's holiday effort)," Webb said. "Kids can bring them in (toys, food items) if they want. But it's not being promoted in the classroom."

The policy extends to the collecting of money for school events, such as musicals, concerts and even the annual senior prom. Tickets for those kinds of events can still be sold, but not in the classroom during instructional time.

"For example, the (Farmington High School) Band Boosters were raising money for their trip to England," Webb said. "(Band director Norman) Logan or a band parent can't come in and say, 'Here, kids, here are packets to raise money for the trip.' But those packets could be sent to them at home."

The fund-raising policy, one of eight to receive second readings and final adoption on Nov. 18, also states that door-to-door sales "are not endorsed," for safety reasons.

The other seven policies are revised versions of existing policies. Those cover attendance, reporting student progress, contests and student achievement awards, graduation, philosophy and objectives of the instructional program, curriculum design and instructional resources.

Staff aims to keep routine at new school

By JENNIFER PLACINTO
STAFF WRITER

Different, but the same.

That's the message Meadowbrook Elementary students from Farmington Hills were told throughout preparation for the move to the new school this week. And, through actions, it's the same message they'll continue to receive with continuity in teachers, classes, recess, lunch periods and more.

"I just wanted to let you know everything's the same," principal Scott Little told students as they sat in the school gymnasium Monday morning. "It's just a different building and a lot of new things."

The scene was a rerun in a new location, since students have been welcomed to the leased Meadow Lake Elementary in Birmingham in the same manner at the beginning of every school year. Farmington Hills elementary students, living in the Walled Lake school district, have been attending Meadow Lake for the past three years awaiting a permanent site.

"Some children were sad about leaving the old building," said Elizabeth Martinez, a school counselor. "They had a little bit of anxiety about being in a new building."

But that anxiety was replaced with excitement Monday as students cut the ribbons to their new classrooms and received a tour of the school.

"Transitions" curriculum helped kindergarten through sixth grade students adjust.

"It's a big change and they

were all very apprehensive," said kindergarten instructor Melissa Mujjakovich.

To alleviate their anxiety she reassured students they would have the same teachers and be keeping the same routine. She also involved students in packing. "It's nice for them to see that change doesn't have to be scary," Mujjakovich said.

Kindergartners also got their own playground and the safety and convenience of being closer to home. Before the move, bus rides averaged 20 to 25 minutes, but now, some students may only be on the bus five minutes to Meadowbrook, on Meadowbrook Road, south of 13 Mile.

"I think it's great because it's a lot closer than driving to Birmingham and back every day," said Taylor Green, 10. "It's neat because you get to try a brand new school that nobody's been in instead of an old school."

And the larger school with colorful carpeting and walls, was a hit just based on its appearance.

"It's beautiful," said parent Leslie Reeder. "It's brighter than I thought."

"We have a real positive attitude in our school, but this really brightens it up," Martinez said.

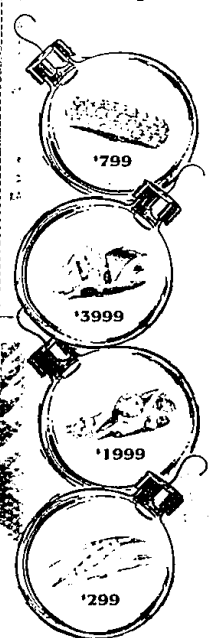
"I like how (the school) has different colors like teal and purple and it feels different because the school's so big," said 9-year-old student Eddie Stern.

Nicole Carlini, 9, and Cathy Cafolla, 11, were looking forward to the larger gym and performing on stage. Meadow Lake Elementary does not have a stage.

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