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ships or some other financial assistance mechanism are being seriously explored.

### Educare expansion eyed

Myers said the committee recommendation to expand Educare is already being acted on. With an eye on kindergarten round-up in February, families are being mailed surveys asking about their interest in Educare. Also, additional school sites are being explored and "we hope to secure funds that would assist needy families."

Partial or full scholarships might be available through the district's Community Service Fund. The fund has less than 20 percent of the \$9.6 million Durant lawsuit settlement from the state, earmarked for various "equity and excellence efforts," said Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

Several other early childhood recommendations include: implementing home-based visits; bringing infants or toddlers into schools for special, interactive classes; piloting all-day programs for preschoolers; supporting parents as educators of their own children.

A catalyst for many recommendations in the plan is the continuing research of how the child's brain develops, and how youngsters learn.

### Windows open early

"The proliferation of studies in early childhood clearly demonstrate the incredible rate at which the brain develops during this early stage of life," said Mary Lou Somerville, Alameda Early Childhood Center and committee member, during the Dec. 15 presentation to board

members. She noted how preschool age children, from birth, have "windows of opportunity for development in language and physical cognitive skills (that) will never be matched at any other stage" of development.

"That information (research) is rather compelling and we really believe the district has an obligation to begin developing appropriate programs and services earlier and more effectively," Somerville said. "... Because learning doesn't just start at age 6 and kindergarten. We know we can have impact sooner."

Somerville emphasized that board approval of the recommen-

dations would only be the first step, with ongoing review and revision.

"This is just the beginning," Somerville said. "This study moved us to just scratch the surface of a really complicated" subject.

### Change K-12 'culture'

Making more available sooner to families would foster a new "culture" in the district - educating from birth to graduation, and not merely K-12.

"Throughout my professional career, early childhood has been so exciting and it still is," Somerville emphasized. "There

is so much untapped potential. We know our recommendations are ... far-reaching and challenging."

"But we know if we get families involved earlier in our schools they will have reason to continue in public school ... and that will pay big educational dividends in later years."

Among those educators enthusiastic about the plan is Joan Firestone, early childhood consultant for Oakland Schools.

"I must tell you, the amount of time and effort and diligence put in (by the committee) is noteworthy," Firestone said to the school board, during the December pre-

sentation. "I've worked with many of the school districts in the county ..."

"The things leading other districts to explore early childhood are also keeping Farmington (schools) looking at going even further and staying on the cutting edge with what we ought to be doing with young children."

Firestone noted three important reasons supporting the committee recommendations:

1. Needs of young families are changing, with more women in the workforce and dual career families.

2. By getting families committed earlier to the schools, "these

students will stay with us in the public schools through high school graduation."

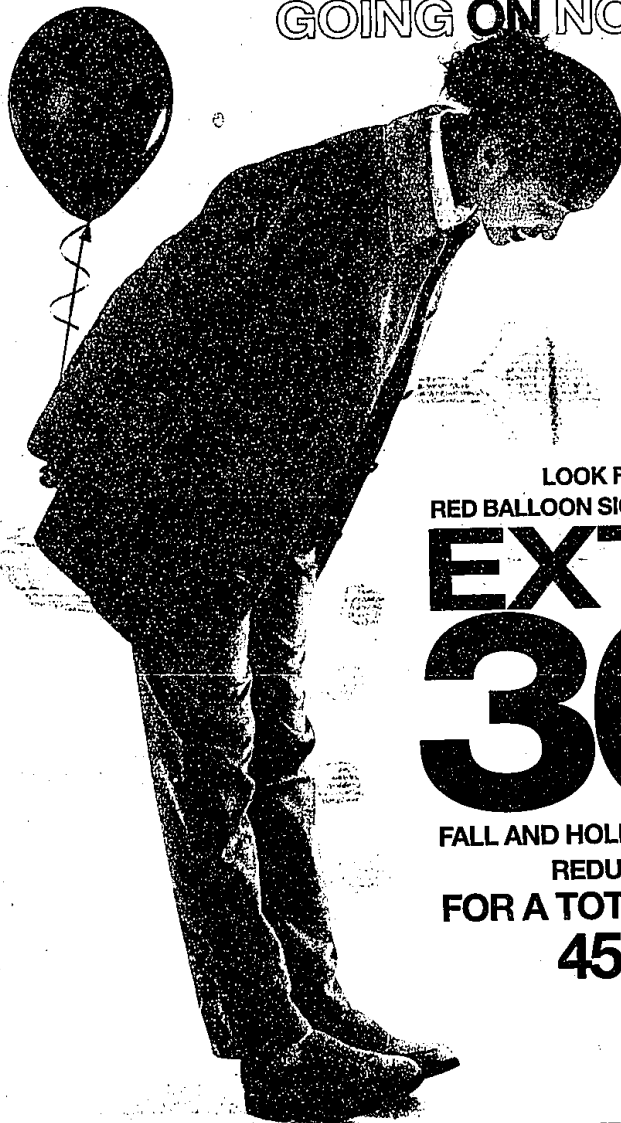
3. Research on brain development "is exploding to help us learn more about importance of the early years as foundation to later academic achievement."

School board Vice President Priscilla Brouillette was enthusiastic about the report.

"I like the component of parental involvement," Brouillette said. "That's critical" to the success of the early childhood recommendations.

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## OBITUARIES

### MARY L. KRUGER

Mary Louise Kruger, 79, of Farmington Hills died Jan. 4 at I.H.S. Nursing Home.

She is survived by daughter Brenda Roulo of Farmington Hills; and grandson, Robert.

Funeral services were Jan. 6 at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Neil Ellison officiating.

### ADELA PALUZZI

Adela Paluzzi, 85, of Southfield died Jan. 5 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

Mrs. Paluzzi was a homemaker.

She is survived by son Rocco of Southfield; daughters, Eleanor (Robert) King of Florida and Emma (Michael) Robbins of Wisconsin; two brothers; four sisters; nine grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Jan. 9 at St. Alexander Catholic Church in Farmington Hills with the Rev. James B. Wright officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to St. Alexander Catholic Church, 27835 Shilwassee, Farmington Hills 48338.

### JEROME F. TREJCHEL

Jerome Frank Trejchel, 80, of Farmington Hills died Jan. 7.

He is survived by son Howard (Lynn); daughter Marilyn Sila; brother Reggie; granddaughters, Carlene and Jennifer Sila; and grandson Scott Trejchel.

Funeral services were Jan. 9 at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington with the Rev. Gerald McEnhill officiating. Arrangements made by Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Angela Hospice.

### MARGARET L. HEDBERG

Funeral services for Margaret L. Hedberg, 82, of Farmington were Monday, Dec. 28 at St. Gerald Catholic Church in Farmington Hills with the Rev. Gerald E. McEnhill officiating. Thever-Rock Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Mrs. Hedberg, who died Dec. 28 at the Hospice Home in Farmington Hills, was born Feb. 18, 1916 in Detroit. She was a Realtor and sales agent.

Survivors include son Dan Hedberg; daughters Pat Wrazej-Taggart, Judy Leo, Joanne Fitzpatrick of Southfield and Kathy Boucher of Livonia, 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Preceding in death was her husband, Eric.

Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1740 Mt. Elliott, Detroit 48207 or to the Hospice Home in Southfield.