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Time Warner's formal proposal in response to SWOCC's request for one month's extension to Monday's deadline.

SWOCC and Time Warner have been without a contract for nearly two years. Informal negotiations stalled, which prompted the regulatory authority to ask for a formal renewal proposal.

Time Warner turned in a voluminous response, spanning three binders. SWOCC Executive Director Karen Collins planned to give copies to trustees at Tuesday's meeting.

In drafting its request, SWOCC used consultants, surveys and focus groups. Time Warner did the same.

At a SWOCC public hearing in January, public school representatives asked for new public access gear to replace old equipment dating back to the original 15-year contract.

They also asked for more access channels.

Under its proposal, Time Warner would continue to operate on a "non-exclusive" basis, which means another cable operator can come into the area. The company would also continue to turn 5 percent of its gross annual revenues to SWOCC as part of the franchise fee.

In the company's customer survey, only 2 percent wanted additional access channels. A majority - 50 percent - are content with access offerings. Time Warner still plans to address access needs through "narrowcasting," which can pipe in separate programming in two distinct areas. That would allow, say, Farmington and Novi to share a government access channel but receive their own programs.

Such technology will provide an equivalent of 10 public access channels, which Time Warner officials termed "gen-cous."

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SWOCC negotiating team plans to meet today to set up a schedule to review the large document.

"It passed the weight test, I suppose," said Bill Hartsack, SWOCC chairman and Farmington City Council member. "We're all very hopeful we can get this done as soon as possible."

Tragedy from page A1

I hear it, 'Could it happen here?' And I'd love to be able to guarantee that it couldn't."

Maxfield Tuesday said such guarantees can never be made - anywhere. But the school district and both cities are working to put the best possible mechanism in place to see that the tragedy at Columbine High School isn't repeated.

To that end, parents in Farmington Public Schools, on Tuesday, were mailed a letter from Maxfield and school board President Cathy Webb.

"We want you to know that safety procedures at all of our schools are being reviewed (with police)," stated their letter. "Crisis plans are being evaluated and rewritten as needed. Updated training will be made available to all staff."

"In light of the Littleton tragedy, our community must intensify its efforts to ensure that each child is understood and feels valued. No one can be

allowed to slip away."

The creation of a 24-hour hotline is viewed by Maxfield as essential in improving communication and helping school officials and police identify "concerns or suspicions that may threaten the safety of our students."

In addition to the hotline, (248) 489-3337, building principals are available during business hours to talk to concerned citizens, the letter explained. People don't need to give out their names if they don't want to, said Maxfield, adding that the important aspect of the hotline is to find out where trouble may be brewing.

"I don't care who people talk to," Maxfield said. "But if you know a secretary, a teacher, a principal, me, ... just call. People shouldn't worry about bureaucracy."

The hotline would also be a place for callers to leave information about a rumor, giving

officials a chance to investigate more quickly.

Asked about existing rumors of trouble, Maxfield said there's "nothing that's substantiated."

The superintendent, along with a group of civic leaders such as Farmington Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer and Farmington Public Safety Director Gary Goss also met Monday during a meeting called by the Commission for Children, Youth and Families.

Police protocol for emergencies in schools would fall according to city boundaries.

"We've had such a good relationship with our police," Maxfield said. "In the disaster plans, they're just that. Plans that we hope are never used ..."

"But if there is a need for police involvement on a large scale ... the key ingredient is that there are clear lines of authority. Define who's in charge."

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Carnegie program offered

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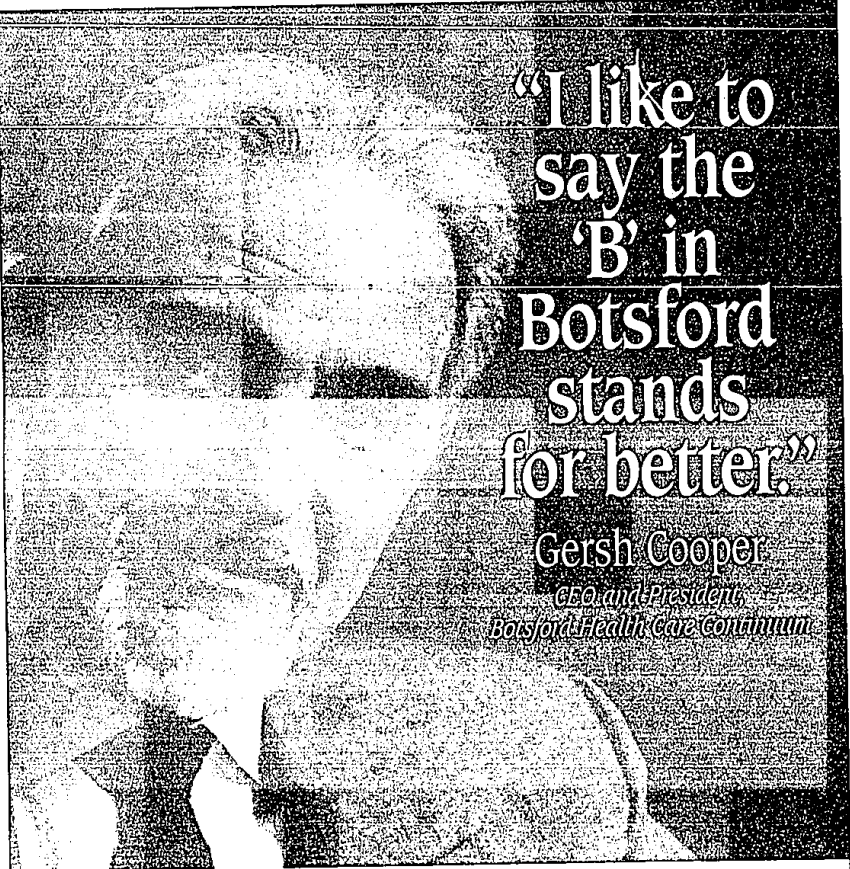
Enrollment is now under way for a new teen-adult Carnegie session in Farmington Hills. The class so far is about 50 percent filled.

For more information, contact

ORIENTATION

course instructor Sue Dahlmann at (810) 220-8812.

Orientation is scheduled from 6:30-10:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19. The subsequent 12-week course begins on Wednesday, June 2.



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