

Board eyes giving teachers suspension authority

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@eccecomm.net

Teachers in Farmington Public Schools can't paddle trouble makers anymore. But starting next week, pending board approval, they'll be able to issue suspensions practically on the spot.

According to an amended stu-

dent code of conduct, which is expected to be approved by the board during its regular meeting set for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, faculty members "may suspend" a student for code violations such as fighting, or they may decide to go the traditional disciplinary route — and forward the matter to the building principal.

James Myers, the district's

executive director for kindergarten-through-12th-grade student services, said the policy amendment is to comply with the so-called Teacher Snap Suspension Law, or state Public Act 103.

According to the state law, suspensions "from a teacher's class, subject or activity for up to one full school day" can be meted out to students for: fighting; refusing to wear safety glasses or safety-required attire; possessing or using a laser light without permission; possessing, using or being under the influence of alcohol or controlled substance, having a "dangerous weapon" as defined in the student code.

Teachers must make a written report to the principal immediately after handing down a suspension.

The district's amendment was tabled during the board's Sept. 7 meeting to give Myers and other administrators additional time to fine-tune language.

Myers explained that the policy needs to be very specific in order to help maintain consistency.

"That (consistency) can be tricky when you have 80 or 70 different teachers in there," Myers said. "Any time you have a disciplinary situation, there's a little judgment call in everything. So, the direction we're going is for this to be as clear as possible so the consistency is there."

John Barrett, Farmington High School principal, said the new policy really doesn't change the way teachers handle such situations anyway. Building administrators hand out suspensions ranging from three to 10 days for serious offenses.

"I don't think it (the policy) is going to be disruptive at all," Barrett said. "It works well with the existing rules."

Barrett, meanwhile, said Farmington High teachers already had the power that state PA 103 purports to bring them.

"Our teachers have already been empowered to do that," he said. "So this really is nothing new."

School use policy approved

The board on Sept. 7 approved a policy change for the use of school facilities by community groups living within the district.

According to the policy change, facilities cannot be used by "any individual, group or society that advocates or teaches any doctrine or theory that is subversive to the Constitution or laws of the state of Michigan or the United States, or advocates social or political change by violence or revolution, or by any individual or group in any manner contrary to law."

But it does encourage use of facilities by "non-profit, youth-serving groups" in the community, including parent organizations.

Priacilla Brouillette, school board president, said the policy is intended to encourage groups to use the buildings, as long as they "serve youth and children."

The policy language about barring subversive groups is "very clear and fair," Brouillette said. "We want to make sure the groups who use (facilities) are within the law."

Brouillette said those who want to apply to use facilities can call the district's administrative office, (248) 469-3382.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRENNER

Preparing: Foundation board members Mark Jensen, Joanne Smith and Gerson Cooper plan for the next Cornucopia Ball in November.

Botsford CEO lauded

By TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@eccecomm.net

As efforts continue for the fifth annual Cornucopia Ball, several members of the Farmington Hills Farmington Community Foundation for Children, Youth and Families gave kudos to the man who helped get the first gala off the ground floor and onto the dance floor.

"Gerson Cooper really has been such a blessing for this foundation," Nancy Bates (also Farmington Hills Mayor Pro-Tem), said after Friday morning's board of trustees meeting.

Bates recalled how Cooper, CEO of Botsford General Hospital and also currently on the community foundation board of trustees, came through in 1995.

At that time, Bates was trying to organize a fund-raising arm to support after-school youth programs.

"I called Gerson Cooper and said I needed the front money (\$10,000)," Bates said. "And he said, 'I'm not going to give you \$10,000 for this year. I'm

going to give you \$10,000 every year for three years. And that's what launched us."

Today, the non-profit organization assists in the financing of after-school youth centers in Farmington Public Schools, among other enrichment, learning and recreational offerings.

Board member and schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield estimated it annually takes \$150,000 to \$200,000 "to support the programs this community wants to support."

Fittingly, given the generosity of Cooper, Friday's foundation board meeting was hosted at Botsford.

"I feel bad that you didn't get here in time for coffee," said Cooper to a reporter afterward, playing the host role to the hilt. "At least take a bagel for the road."

Cooper, more seriously, said the credit should go to the other community and business leaders who work together.

"None of the people (in the foundation) can do the job by themselves," Cooper said. "This is a healthy community partnership."

READER SERVICE

HOW TO REACH US

- Newsrooms: 248-477-5450
- Nightline/Sports: 734-953-2141
- Reader Comment Line: 734-953-2141
- Classified Advertising: 734-591-0900
- Display Advertising: 734-591-2300
- Home Delivery: 248-901-4716
- Cable TV Weekly: 734-953-2190

HOMELINE: 734-953-2020

- Open houses and new developments in your area.
- Free real estate seminar information.
- Current mortgage rates.

✓ **CLASSIFIED AFTER HOURS: 734-591-0900**

Place classified ads at your convenience.

✓ **CIRCULATION AFTER HOURS**
OAKLAND COUNTY: 248-901-4716

Request subscriptions at your convenience.

✓ **O&E ON-LINE: 248-644-1100**

You can access On-Line with just about any communications software—PC or Macintosh. On-Line users can:

- Send and receive unlimited email.
- Access all features of the Internet—Telnet, Gopher, WWW and more.
- Read electronic editions of the Observer & Eccentric newspapers.
- Chat with users across town or across the country.



TAMARA GRUBBS / STAFF ARTIST

PHOTO REPRINTS: 734-591-0500

Order reprints of pictures that have been taken by our staff photographers:

- Provide the publication date, page number, and description of the picture, which must have been published within the past 6 months.
- \$20 for the first print, \$7.50 for each additional print paid in advance (check or credit card).

The Farmington Observer

Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48032-0910. Periodical postage paid at Farmington, MI 48032-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington MI 48032-0910. Telephone 248-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Carrier Delivery	One Year	One Year (Out of State)	Mail Delivery
	\$47.00	\$54.00	\$55.00
One year (Out of State)	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$55.00
Newsstand, per copy	75¢		

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the separate rate card and copies of which are available from the advertising department 23411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48032 (248) 477-6432. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Orders are subject to credit. Advertisers have no authority to send this newspaper and any publication of an advertisement shall constitute full acceptance of the advertiser's order.

CPC **MPA** **SN**

CASH

Waiting For You At
Italia Jewelry

Bring In All Of Your Old Diamonds & Gold Rolex Watches Wanted

\$1.99 Batteries for Most Watches
Excluding Ultramax • W/Coupon • Limit One

33463 W. 7 Mile Rd. Livonia • (248) 442-7878

Farmington Observer

(USPS 187-840)

Published every Sunday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Farmington, MI 48032-0910. Periodical postage paid at Farmington, MI 48032-0910. Postmaster: Send address changes to Observer & Eccentric, Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Farmington MI 48032-0910. Telephone 248-1100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Carrier Delivery	One Year	One Year (Out of State)	Mail Delivery
	\$47.00	\$54.00	\$55.00
One year (Out of State)	\$50.00	\$54.00	\$55.00
Newsstand, per copy	75¢		

All advertising published in the Farmington Observer is subject to the conditions stated in the separate rate card and copies of which are available from the advertising department 23411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48032 (248) 477-6432. The Farmington Observer reserves the right not to accept an advertiser's order. Orders are subject to credit. Advertisers have no authority to send this newspaper and any publication of an advertisement shall constitute full acceptance of the advertiser's order.

Mai Thai

RESTAURANT

Featuring Authentic Thai Dishes

- LUNCH SPECIALS FROM 11-4 PM
- CARRY OUT & CATERING AVAILABLE
- Cocktails Now Available

Reservations (248) 626-6113

6635 Orchard Lk. Rd. at Maple • Old Orchard Shopping Ctr.

HOURS: Mon.-Thur. 11 AM-10 PM, Fri. & Sat. 11 AM-11 PM, Sun. 12-9 PM

LIVING TRUSTS ARE NOT WORKING AS PLANNED!



"ADVANCED" LIVING TRUSTS WORKSHOP

What your attorney may not have told you about your estate plan...

- Including:
- Learn why your Trust May Not work and how probate may be in your future.
 - Saving taxes with your Living Trust
 - Strategies for reducing risk & maximizing returns with Your Living Trust assets

Presented by **Paul Leduc**, Financial Consultant

SOUTHFIELD Tuesday, September 28th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) Southfield Civic Center 70000 Evergreen Rd. (across from library)	ROCHESTER Wednesday, September 29th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) Older Persons Commission (OPC) 312 Woodward St.	LIVONIA Thursday, September 30th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) Livonia Civic Center Library 33777 S. Mile Rd. (E. of Farmington Rd.)
PLYMOUTH Monday, October 4th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) Plymouth Cultural Center 115 Farmer Rd. Down N. Terminal & S. Mile off Shadel	FARMINGTON HILLS Tuesday, October 5th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) The Longacre House 24705 Farmington Rd. (Down 10 & 11 Mile Rd.)	NORTHVILLE Wednesday, October 6th 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (evening) Northville Public Library 212 W. Cady (Downtown Northville)

All seminars free of charge. No reservations necessary. For information, call (248) 640-8710.

Paul Leduc is a Registered Representative with Lincoln/Prudential Ledger WSP • 555 S. Old Woodward #777, Birmingham, MI 48009. Securities offered through Lincoln/Prudential Ledger, member SIPC.

Hi Neighbor

Looking for an eye care provider in your neighborhood? Come to the University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center in West Bloomfield.

From eye exams and contact lenses (including bifocal contact lenses) to same-day surgical cases (including refractive and cataract surgery) we are right around the corner — your corner — ready to care for your eyes.

Call (248) 855-2071 to make an appointment today. We accept most major insurances.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
KELOGG EYE CENTER
A Leader in World Class Eye Care

Donald S. Beser, M.D.
U-M Kellogg Eye Center
West Bloomfield
5829 Maple Rd., Ste. 129
Hours: 8:30-5:00
Monday thru Friday

Quit Smoking or Lose Weight

These highly effective seminars provide all the proven tools you need to succeed: our powerful seminar, audio tape, behavior modification booklet, plus free hypnosis repetitions if needed.

Quit Smoking:

- Livonia: Mission Health Medical Center Thursday, Sept. 23rd, 6:30-8:30pm 37595 Seven Mile Road (at Newburgh), Livonia
- Novi Park: Providence Medical Center Saturday, Sept. 25th, 10am - 12noon 47601 Grand River Avenue, (Beck Rd. Entrance), Novi
- Southfield: Providence Hospital Saturday, October 2nd, 10am - 12noon 22250 Providence Drive, Medical Building Free Parking in Medical Building parking lot with ad

Weight Loss:

- Livonia: Mission Health Medical Center Wednesday, Sept. 22nd, 3-5pm or 6:30-8:30pm 37595 Seven Mile Road (at Newburgh), Livonia
- Novi Park: Providence Medical Center Saturday, September 25th, 1-3 pm 47601 Grand River Avenue, (Beck Rd. Entrance), Novi
- Southfield: Providence Hospital Saturday, October 2nd, 1-3 pm 22250 Providence Drive, Medical Building Free Parking in Medical Building parking lot with ad

"After 43 years, I am free. I cannot believe how miraculous your program is! Eternal Thanks!"
Edna A. Vares

"I can't believe it! Like a dream come true. The weight comes off easily and effortlessly. No more snacking or overeating!"
Lutisha Powell

PROVIDENCE

Want Terrific Heating Service? Call the Rheem Team®.

We deliver heating service you can count on. We'll be there on time. In uniform and wearing photo ID. We do the job right at a fair price. Call us for the best in customer care. **We Will Impress You. I Promise.**

United Temperature Heating & Air Conditioning

734-525-1930

www.unitedtemp.rheemteam.net

West Side / Southern Oakland County

Rheem Team
We Will Impress You

Michael Kelly

1 800 RHEEM TEAM www.rheemac.com