

Tentative pact between schools, bus drivers hits snag

BY TIM SMITH
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The apparent tentative contract reached between Farmington Public Schools and the union for its 77 bus drivers hit an unexpected detour Tuesday when members voted to reject it.

"It just means they go back to the table," said Farmington schools Superintendent Bob

Maxfield after Tuesday night's school board meeting. "I'm disappointed. And I'm sure if they were sitting here right now, they'd say they just didn't feel right about it."

The district had been confident that the members of the Farmington Transportation Association would vote to approve it, so much so that the agreement was originally on the board agenda.

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Bob Maxfield
—Superintendent

But the members rejected it at a ratification vote earlier Tuesday, and the item was deleted from the agenda at the beginning of

the board session.

It was not disclosed what the vote was.

Maxfield said he didn't think the snag would impact the tentative agreement between the district and teachers union. Teachers were expected to vote on that contract, a four-year deal, over the next few days.

"They are very different agreements," Maxfield said. "Each had their own flavor."

But there were similarities, particularly in length. Bargain-

ing teams for the transportation and teacher unions worked out four-year deals with the district. Maxfield said he didn't think the length was a sticking point.

Salary schedule increases were to have been 2 percent for each of the four years.

Still being negotiated are contracts with unions for the district's custodial and secretarial employees.

Police investigate after resident of group home appears beaten

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Police are investigating after a Farmington Hills group home reports, a 43-year-old woman who is mentally ill, appeared to have been beaten.

On Saturday, the woman's mother and sister took her to St. Joseph-Mercy Hospital after noticing several injuries, which doctors diagnosed as being a broken cheek bone, bruised ear and bruised left ankle.

Doctors admitted the woman and contacted protective ser-

vices.

A physician told police the eye injury was the result of being hit. A bruise was also found on the woman's upper leg that appeared to be a week old, police reports said.

"There is a concern in how the injuries occurred," said Sgt. Tim Swanson, Farmington Hills police investigative bureau. "The emergency room doctor is concerned with the inconsistencies of the injuries given by the health care worker. There is still a lot of go on this."

The woman's mother told police her daughter stays at a group home with another resident on Greening Street during the week and comes home for weekends. When asked for a comment, a person at the group home hung up the phone.

When the woman returned home Oct. 16, an aide to her mother she had twisted her ankle and was treated at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield.

The aide said the woman fell on a her job, which involves cleaning a church an hour a

week. The doctor told to police the injuries may be from being hit rather than an accidental fall.

A health care worker also told police the woman has a history of self-inflicted injuries, Swanson said.

"She is difficult to communicate with because of her illness," Swanson said. "When you have a victim who would have difficulty testifying, you rely on the medical community."

Detectives planned to interview group workers on Wednesday, Swanson said.

3 men arrested on drug-related charges

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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Some Farmington Hills residents may have redefined the term "narc."

Police arrested three men, ages 20, 31 and 33, after finding

numerous roach clips, crack pipes and other drug paraphernalia in a house on 14 Mile Oct. 17.

They were called to the home on an unrelated domestic dispute when one of the men told police they'd find cocaine and drug paraphernalia in his roommate's bedroom.

Police found six crack pipes, three marijuana pipes, screens, two metal spoons and rolling papers. There also appeared to be cocaine residue in the man's room, police reports said.

The man, whose room police searched, admitted that he had made crack cocaine during the past few days.

While they were there, he suggested police check out the burgeoning mushroom collection of his roommate — the one who told officers about the drug gear.

The man, whose room police searched, admitted that he had made crack cocaine during the past few days.

With a planter with what appeared to be mushrooms growing inside. The contents have been sent to a crime lab to be analyzed, but it's not certain whether charges will be filed, police said.

A third man was arrested after police found narcotics paraphernalia in his room, reports said. The men are renting the house.

Earlier, a resident at the house told police he had been punched several times in the head during an argument over a burn hole in the man's car.

CLARIFICATION

The 47th District Court opens at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, not 8 a.m., as reported in

a recent issue of the Farmington Observer.

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Award: Farmington Hills police-schools liaison officer Duane Fox holds the award he received from the Crime Prevention Association. With him is crime prevention Officer Bonnie Unruh.

Officer honored by prevention organization

The Crime Prevention Association of Michigan has honored Farmington Hills police officer Duane Fox with its "Outstanding Youth/School Officer" award.

The award is presented to those who have done excellent work with school-aged children.

Fox, a 14-year veteran of the Farmington Hills department, is a school liaison officer at North Farmington High where he maintains an office.

His responsibilities include documenting and investigating criminal acts on school grounds as well as serving as a guest instructor. Also, Fox works with the elementary and middle schools whose students eventually go to North Farmington.

Fox received the award at the association's 25th Anniversary Training Conference in Traverse City Oct. 12.

The association also recognized Fox for:

- His involvement with the department's anti-drug education program THINK (Teaching, Helping, Involving, Noticing Kids);
- His role in advancing

police/school interaction on the Central Michigan University Institute to Advisory Board;

- Writing a monthly article on police department activities for the Northwest Gazette;
- Writing numerous articles that appear in school and parent newsletters; and,
- His production of two cable television videos on bicycle safety and the department's mountain bike program.

Fox has received five department citations and numerous letters of appreciation from residents, students and teachers. He has a bache-

lors degree in criminology from Madonna University.

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