

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Primary educators

I am writing once again to address the parents of elementary children in the Farmington public school district. This concerns the sexual harassment videos to be shown to the first and second graders, and also the fifth graders.

Hillside Elementary has declined to use the fifth grade video because 50 percent of parents previewing the material were opposed. The district's assistant superintendent for instruction, Judy White, agrees it would be in Hillside's best interest to leave it out of this curriculum. Why is this video then going to be shown at every other school in Farmington?

The only reason it will be shown is because parents at these schools have, by and large, not seen these videos.

The "parent preview" attendance at schools other than Hillside has been embarrassingly low. I do not believe that these parents are willfully neglecting their children's best interest, but with a title curriculum like "Respecting Oneself and Others," I suppose most parents trust that their little ones won't be exposed to sexual abuse videos.

At this writing, there were still school board members who had not even viewed these videos. They only approved the written curriculum materials. At the next board of education meeting on April 11, we can have an opportunity to ask for their individual approvals of these videos. Maybe someone will even explain why he or she believes that it is the school's place to teach these kids about sexual abuse on young children.

Have our MEAP scores surpassed the rest to the degree that we have free time left over for this garbage? One member of the board admitted that these were not the best choice. Will anyone with clout have courage and stand up for we parents who still want to be our children's primary educators on matters such as sexual abuse?

Claudia M. Taffo  
Farmington Hills

## Good results

The service you render by publishing the calendar of community events is a blessing to those of us who are trying to raise money for the benefits of our residents.

We at the Detroit Baptist Manor have benefited a good many times. We have had good results again this year.

Gladys Woodward  
Chairman of the  
Rummage and Bake sale  
Alpha Building  
Farmington Hills

## Our expectations

Our public school system claims we are a "just the facts" community. When will facts be used to either finally change the direction of public education or illustrate that the time for vouchers has come?

The state, with the MEAP, identifies the basic skills that students are to demonstrate. A Proficient rating is achieved when approximately 75 percent of the multiple choice questions are answered correctly.

Our district has many responsive classrooms that annually produce 90 to 100 percent of their students who achieve the Proficient rating.

Instead of this proven 90 percent Proficient quality benchmark, a formula is used that measures improvement in the lowest scoring ranges. It continues to report mediocre results as a quality outcome.

The district boasts of dozens of top candidates for every open teacher position. Yet it actually continues to accept practices that have proven to be unresponsive to the learning needs of the students in the

classroom.

The district bemoans the demands placed upon teachers. Yet students are socially promoted despite demonstrating deficiencies in their basic skills. Can we expect the next teacher to do their job when they are loaded with students who are not adequately prepared?

We are the bankers of the schools. Shouldn't we insist the high school diplomas and transcripts be bankroll to validate with an independent state audit?

Should our schools be value neutral when their fundamental purpose is to educate to preserve individual liberty and our representative democracy? Shouldn't we expect all high school graduates to have passed a state civics and social studies test?

Our national motto is E Pluribus Unum. Are we a multi-ethnic culture, or are we a multi-cultural collection of peoples with no uniform standard of right and wrong or equitable consequences for our actions? What is being taught

and reinforced in our public schools?

Dave York  
Farmington Hills

## Still concerned

Thank you very much for your column on 11 Pines (Sunday, March 19). I am one of those Farmington Hills residents who is still concerned over the initial proposed expansion of the San Marino golf course.

While I am glad that city council has finally come to its

senses and scrapped its plan, I am still left wondering how we got ourselves into this mess in the first place. What your report did not cover is just who is responsible for spending my tax dollars to buy a landfill. If your report is accurate and the new proposal could potentially cost taxpayers somewhere between \$2.75 and \$11.2 million, then I want to know who to hold accountable. If it is a former elected official, I want to make sure that person never has control over taxpayer money again. If it is the cur-

rent city council, I want to be sure the people of Farmington Hills remember that at the next election.

Michael Leads  
Farmington Hills

Opinions are to be shared. To assure authenticity we ask that you provide a contact telephone number and if mailing or faxing a letter, please sign it. Letters can be mailed to: Joanne Maliszewski, 33411 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335, faxed to Joanne at (734) 459-2700 or emailed to jmaliszewski@oe.homecom.net

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