

Rackowski pledges support for special ed

BY TIM SMITH
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Farmington school officials were given assurances by state Rep. Andrew Rackowski that their concerns about special education funding and election consolidation would be given due attention by lawmakers.

Rackowski, a Farmington Hills Republican who represents the 37th House District, met with the Farmington Board of Education during a study session prior to the Tuesday, Feb. 27 regular meeting.

School board President Frank Reid said Rackowski "agreed to take a leadership position" in particular about going to bat for helping public school districts receive the amount of special ed funding required under the Headlee Amendment.

"And we talked about other issues on the educational agenda

in Lansing," said Reid, during his legislative update to the rest of the board during the regular meeting. "Andrew Rackowski pledged us his full support."

The Farmington district is one of the estimated 480 Michigan public districts that have signed on to the Durant III lawsuit, the latest legal incarnation of the longtime fight against the underfunding of special education by the state. There are about 630 public districts in the state.

Under Headlee, the state is required to reimburse districts for 28 percent of those costs, but according to Reid, that amount being paid Farmington Public Schools is "actually closer to 6 or 7 percent." The difference amounts to about \$3.9 million.

Although the district is still able to fill in any budgetary gaps caused by the underfunding, Reid said it is only a matter of time before tough decisions need

to be made - pitting money for special ed against money for general education programs.

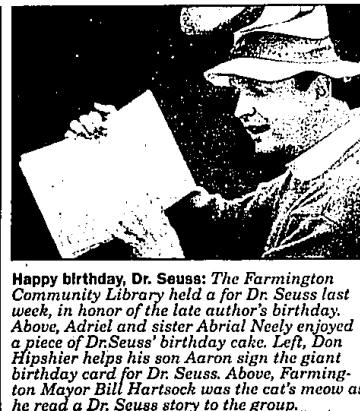
About the possibility of consolidating elections, Rackowski told the board that one bill has already been introduced in the Senate and he intends to introduce another in the House.

"We made it clear (to Rackowski) that the number one issue is separating education elections from partisan elections," said Reid following the meeting. "If the goal is to increase voter participation, it's not by lengthening the November ballot."

Under discussion is one election specifically for education. That would include local school board races and ballot proposals, as well as races for the state school board and state university regents' boards.

Voters now elect members of the state school board and university regents in November.

Oh, the places you'll go



Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss: The Farmington Community Library held a for Dr. Seuss last week, in honor of the late author's birthday. Above, Adriell and sister Abriell Neely enjoyed a piece of Dr. Seuss' birthday cake. Left, Don Hipshier helps his son Aaron sign the giant birthday card for Dr. Seuss. Above, Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock was the cat's meow as he read a Dr. Seuss story to the group.

CHAMBER CALENDAR

- MARCH**
- March 13 - Ambassadors Club meeting, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Chamber office.
 - March 16 - Governmental affairs committee meeting, 8-9 a.m. at the Chamber office.
 - March 15 - Membership Committee meeting, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Chamber office.
 - March 20 - Board of Directors meeting, 7:30-9 a.m. at the Chamber office.
- Chamber office.**
- March 26 - Workforce Development Committee meeting, 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Chamber office.
 - March 28 - Membership orientation, 8-9 a.m. at the Chamber office.
- APRIL**
- April 5 - Morning Connection at Muirwood Apartments, 35055 Muirwood Drive, 7:45-9 a.m.
 - April 10 - Ambassadors Club meeting, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the Chamber office.
 - April 12 - Expo 2001, noon-7 p.m. at the William Costick Activities Center. Event is open to the public for \$5 per person.
 - April 17 - Board of Directors meeting, 7:30-9 a.m. at the Botsford Hospital Board Room.

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FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS - PUBLIC NOTIFICATION TECHNICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM 2001-2002

Each year the Farmington Public Schools offer Technical programs at Farmington (FHIS), Harrison (HHIS), North Farmington (NFHS) High School and at the Oakland Technical Center Southwest Campus (OTC-SW) in Walled Lake. Within the District a shuttle bus transports students from their high school to another building. No class time is lost.

These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and continuing education opportunities. They are offered under the guidance of certified instructors, counselors and cooperative education coordinators. The curriculum is technologically up to date, the equipment is representative of the "state of the art" in business and industry and the laboratories are of optimum size appropriately designed.

If a program is offered at OTC-SW and at the home high school, students are asked to enroll in the home high school for the first year and then transfer to OTC-SW for the advanced program during the second year. Transportation is provided to OTC-SW.

Listed below are the programs being offered this year, their location and their prerequisites. Please refer to your course description book for a complete listing of courses.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

PROGRAM	LOCATION	PREREQUISITE
Marketing I	FHS-HHS-NFHS	NONE
Marketing & Store Operations	FHS-HHS-NFHS	NONE
Medical Skills (Science Credit)**	FHS-HHS-NFHS	NONE
Word Processing	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Keyboarding/Word Processing
Computer Applications	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Word Processing
Desktop Publishing	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Word Processing or Computer App.
Automotive Technology**	FHS-HHS-NFHS-OTC-SW	Auto Mechanics or Auto Care
Material Engineering	FHS-NFHS	NONE
Construction Systems	FHS	NONE
(CAD) Architectural**	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Technical Drafting or TECH Draft & Design
(CAD) Engineering**	FHS-HHS-NFHS	Technical Drafting or TECH Draft & Design
Visual Imaging Technology (Printing)*	FHS	Publications/Proc. or Communications Technology 1
Graphic Communications	OTC-SW	NONE
(CAD) Drafting Engineering	OTC-SW	NONE
Computer Repair and Networking Technology	OTC-SW	NONE
Heavy Equipment and Trucking Technology	OTC-SW	NONE
Marketing	OTC-SW	NONE
Auto Body Repair	OTC-SW	NONE
Business Services Technology	OTC-SW	NONE
Health Sciences/Medical	OTC-SW	NONE
Agriculture/Floral	OTC-SW	NONE
Culinary Arts/Hospitality	OTC-SW	NONE
Agriculture Greenhouse/Landscape	OTC-SW	NONE
Welding and Fabrication Technology	OTC-SW	NONE
Manufacturing Technology	OTC-SW	NONE

*First year of course must be taken at home high school, if offered.
**Prerequisites may differ depending on course offerings at each building.

LIFE MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM

The life management curriculum (formerly home economics) includes courses designed to help students more effectively cope with and manage their lives in a technological society. The curriculum is futuristic, the facilities are well equipped and the instructional staff is certified and well qualified. The following semester courses are offered at each of the high schools unless otherwise noted:

COURSE	PREREQUISITE	GRADE
Child Development/Parenting	NONE	10-12
Childhood Education Seminar (NFHS)	NONE	11-12
Fashion & Textile Technology	NONE	9-12
Teen Issues	NONE	9-10
Family Sociology (Social Studies Credit)	NONE	11-12
Nutrition	NONE	9-12
Housing/Interior Design	NONE	10-12
Personal Finance (Math Credit)	NONE	11-12
On Your Own	NONE	12

For specific information about the above programs, you may call the Guidance Office at the respective building. Farmington High School (489-3447), Harrison High School (489-3504) and North Farmington High School (489-3531). In keeping with the Farmington Board of Education policy on non-discrimination, students have equal access to all technical and life management programs regardless of race, religion, handicap, color, sex, or national origin. In addition, the lack of English language shall not be a barrier to admission or participation. For general information about these programs, contact Terry Kienzer, Director, Applied Technology & Career Development, 30415 Shiawassee, Farmington (489-3360). Inquiries concerning equal opportunities on the basis of sex should be directed to Susan Zuravles, Title IX Coordinator, 32100 Shiawassee, Farmington (489-3358). Questions concerning equal opportunities for the challenged should be directed to Janice Richards, Section 504 Coordinator at 28500 Oakcrest Drive, Farmington Hills (489-3358). Inquiries concerning discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin may be directed to Larry Lobert, Title VI Coordinator, 32500 Shiawassee, Farmington, MI (489-3367).

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