## C'ville ponders revision to abstinence-based sex ed

BY LARRY O'CONNOR BIAFF WRITER

Clarencevillo officials are considering a change in their high school sex education curriculum from 'just say no' to more of a "what if emphasis.

Before one letter of the policy gets revised, though, they are going to check with parents first. At a meeting 7 p.m. Monday, Clarenceville High parents will be able to voice their opinion.

The districts sex of has been abstinence based. Administrators would consider broadening that to possibly include talk about such things as over-three-counter birth control to prevent unwanted pregnancy or spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

ted diseases.

In recent months, Novi's school board has been faced with angry parents over that district's teaching of sex ed, primarily because of the focus on contraception.

Some parents feel that teaching teens about birth control indirectly on courages them to have to make sure we don't embroil ourselves in an unnecessary controversy.'

Barb

Barb Church -Curriculum

to make sure we director d on 't em broil ourselves in an unnecessary controversy. "Wo're in on hurry."

Officials are counting on parental feeback at Monday's meeting.

Parent's views will be reported to an advisory committee, which is examining the district's health

and sex ed curriculum.

The committee includes principals, a clergy member, a trustee, three nurses and two high school students. Any changes would not take effect until the next school

students. Any changes would not take effect until the next school term.

The high school parents' group gathers monthly, but the topic of this meeting is likely to generate more of a turnout.

Parents have been notified through the school's newsletter, Principal David Simowaki said. Clarenceville includes portions of Livonia, Redford and Parmington Hills.

"In a situation like this, you do tend to get the range of opinions," Simowaki said. "We're hoping more than one side comes out because you tend to hear from the other side later."

Simowski and a school physical education teacher will supply parents with an outline of proposed changes. Sax ed is taught as part of physical education class.

The principal plans to share statistics with parents, including a 1999 state survey where 45 student is percent of high school students inclicated they were sexually given another. In the same study, one-third of high school students said they have not talked about sex with their parents.

"That's pretty frightening, "Simowaki said.

In proposing changes, the district is not going to veer from its either saide.

In proposing changes, the dis-trict is not going to veer from its abstinence message, Simowski

sid.

Instead, administrators believe information on birth control is something that can be useful later on — not necessarily a students.

"We would like to give the information they will need as adults," Church said.
"There are some things we wouldn't touch with a 10-foot pole. One would be abortion or the abortion pill."

Parents have the option of the committee who is the properties of the properties o

## Highmeadow plans reading month event

month event

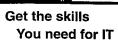
Highmeadow Common
Campus' "Literature
Extravaganza" to celebrate March is Reading
Month will take place 6to-930 pm. Priday.
The feativities will
include a Harry Potter
room. Visitors also will
have the chance to view a
special painting by Highmeadow parent Pat Morel,
who created her rendition
of Mone's "water Lillies"
on a computer lab wall.
"This solved a problem,"
said school media specialsit Sue Kalisky. "That's a
handicapped ramp, which
they can't use. Now, they
can see it (More)'s portrait)' from a distance
without attempting to step
up on to the ramp.

## **ARMED SERVICES**

Army Capt. Darcy L. Overbey has arrived for duty at Fort Ben-ning, Columbus, Ga, The captain is assigned to the 86th Military Police Criminal lavestigation Division. She has served on active duty for more

curriculum director. "We want

than six years.
Overbey is the daughter of Debbie A. Pinzl of Crosley Road, Redford, Mich. She is a 1989 graduate of Harrison High School, and a 1993 graduate of the University of Michigan.



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