Board learns Schools of Choice busing may end

Farmington School Superintendent Bob Maxfield gave school board members a heads up Dec. 4.

Transportation for accounts.

Transportation for secondary School of Choice students may be affected in light of discussions about delaying school start

times.
"This is a long-standing practice, which doesn't necessarily

make sense, for a variety of rea-sons," Maxfield said. "We're not going to ask you to make a deci-sion now, but we wanted to get it out in front of the community."

out in front of the community."
The district approved the
School of Choice program in
March 1992. Buses now take the
School of Choice students to
their home school and then shuttle them to their preferred
school.

About 295 students are alkit.

Tangeneration directs Bill

About 235 students are eligi-ble to ride the bus; 125 kids do,

said Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business, finance and operations. This compares to a total enrollment of 5,400 secondary

"In order to accommodate mid-dle school students, they need to be dropped off 15-20 minutes before school start," Cannon said. "It affects a small percent-age of secondary students." Transportation director Bill Tousley was asked recently to

look at what it would take "transportation-wise and sched-ule-wise" to accommodate possi-ble later school start times, Can-

ble later school start times, Can-non said.
"There really isn't a cost sav-ing in driver's time to eliminate it," she said. 'The savings would be in mileage.'
School of Choice applications note that there may not be transportation for School of Choice students next year.
"We would ask that there still

be some secondary transporta-tion options," Maxfield said. "It wouldn't necessarily impact stu-dents in specialized programs." There's an obligation to bus foreign students in the 'newcom-er' to Harrison High School and East Middle School, he said. Currently, start time for East, Dunckel. Power and Warner Middle Schools is 7:40 a.m. Farmington and North Farming-ton High start their days at 7:30 a.m.; Harrison, at 7:25 a.m.

Mansion celebration

The Warner Mansion will celebrate the holidays Victorian style with authentic Victorian decorations and Hugh Battley, 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9.

The mansion is located at 33805 Grand River in downtown Farmington.

Forum from page A6

mother and school volunteer Colleen Feige listed some of the positive results from the later school start time, including:

Students are more alert and

more attentive in morning class-

es;

Students are more prompt arriving for morning classes, easier to motivate, have more time in the mornings to get extra help from teachers and are less

cranky;

Teachers are better rested, less rushed and have more mental energy for their morning

classes;
Students, on the whole, got better grades and were loss depressed;
Attendance rates increased.
The been an educator for 35 years, and this later start time is

the best thing I've ever done to encourage learning," Dragseth said.

na. Blondy said he conducted an

Blondy said he conducted an informal poll among his teenage patients and asked if they could learn better at 9 a.m. or 7 a.m. "More than 70 percent of them said 9 a.m.," Blondy said. "The older the student, the more in agreement with the later start time."

He also pointed out some safe-ty reasons for allowing adoles-cents to get more sleep.
"Teenagers need more sleep than younger children," he said. "Teenage fatal car crashes are associated with early morning classes."

Another advantage with earli-er start times, he pointed out, is that the school day ends later,

meaning students would be home alone for shorter periods before parents get home from

before parents get home from work.
William Camp of Farmington said he still inn't sure latter start times are the right way to go for his district.
"I think it's the single best thing we can do for our kids," said Farmington Supt. Bob Maxfield, who facilitated the forum.
West Bloomfield Supt. Seymour Cretcheo said his district is close to changing to the later start time. One of the reasons is that transportation changes may be relatively can because most school buildings are located along or near Orchard Lake Road.



American House OHers New Options in Senior Living Our New Unbundled Services

♦ One & Two Bedroom Apartments with Kitchens ♦ Recreational, Cultural and Social Activities Optional Services Ava

- Continental Breakfast
- Ability to Provide Shared Housing at a Reduced Rate ♦ Barber and Beauty Shop
- 24-Hour Emergency Response
 Handicapped Units Available

Furnished Respite Apartments Available r

- Homemade Lunch & Dinner Meals
- Impeccable Housekeeping
 Personal Laundry & Linen Services
 Personal Assistance

Please Call For More Juformation

Birmingham (248) 645-0420 (248) 853-2330

West Bloomfield (248) 538-5283

Farmington Hills 24400 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48336 (248) 471-9141

Monthly Rentals Starting At \$1,000.00

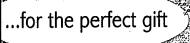
PREVENT WINTER NIGHTMARES! Avoid Ice Damage Call Us for Roof Snow Removal!

Dompierre **Construction**

"Serving You Better"

•Roofs • Siding • Windows • Kitchens • Baths Call Jeff Dompierre or Dan Schnelbach *248.478.5959*







Enter to Win a \$100 Gift Certificate - 5 Winners!

Receive 1 entry for each purchase made at participating

evare heart the Melly

Holiday Happenings

Sunday, December 16, 2:00 PM Dance Academy of West Bloomfield

Thursday, December 20, 1:00 PM Ealy Elementary Entertainers



