

Start from page A1

Clarenceville, Huron Valley, Livonia, Northville, Novi, Plymouth-Canton and Walled Lake. Area parents, school staff and board members attended a Nov. 28 forum hosted at Walled Lake Central High School where Edina, Minn. school district representatives spoke. Several school districts in the Minneapolis, Minn. area experienced positive results after making the time change.

Communication is key

Huron Valley Superintendent Robert O'Brien said his district is incorporating the later start time discussion into a three-year study funded by a \$100,000 federal grant from the Department of Education to evaluate all aspects of high school.

"We have a higher level of interest," O'Brien said. "We've looked at models which have varied start times to allow some students and teachers who are early risers to start at 7 a.m., for example, and others to begin school at 9 a.m. Individuals are unique."

Officials agree that getting the word out to their communities is key.

"We're planning a wider public

awareness endeavor," said Jim Geisler, Walled Lake Consolidated School District superintendent. "We need to broaden awareness."

The district is the largest in Oakland County with 15,000 students and two high schools with an expected third in August. "That's a lot for a transportation department to do," Geisler said.

Some plan more study

"We're not in the vicinity of making a decision," said South Lyon Superintendent William Pearson. "We'll need to study it further. I'm interested in it. We may launch it in the next year or two."

Later high school start times aren't included in South Lyon's five-year strategic plan. "We're in a period of rapid growth," Pearson said. "We haven't studied the fiscal impact. It's a way into our priorities and agenda. We'll do a survey."

The district anticipates a bond issue for a new high school at the end of this year. An existing two-tiered system has high school and middle school students riding the same bus. A time change could have elementary students

starting at 7:40 a.m. rather than 8:40 a.m.

In Livonia, officials intend to keep the status quo, because they're facing some other difficult issues.

"We are anticipating no change this fall," said Superintendent Kenneth Watson. "We have staff looking at the cost factor, buses, et cetera. We're looking at eliminating \$5 million from our budget. This is not the time to be moving toward something more costly."

Watson said the district will keep its membership in the consortium.

Clarenceville School Superintendent Tom Tattan said he is waiting for the results of a survey of high school teaching staff, the Student Congress and random parent sampling, due by Jan. 11.

"There's no groundswell to make the changes," Tattan said. Strong interest will determine whether he will set up citizen committees.

Even so, Tattan would recommend no later than a half hour later start time, to 8 a.m.

"Otherwise, it begins to impact student activities and work," Tattan said. "I'm not an advocate

of taking kids out of class."

Northville and Novi Schools are also taking a cautious approach.

"We're still reviewing the research," said Northville School Superintendent Leonard Reznierski. "We're going building by building to make sure everyone understands the concept. There are too many variables to make a determination right now."

The Northville school district plans a town hall meeting at the end of the month.

"We're still very much in the exploratory stage," said Novi School Superintendent Emmott Lippe.

"We have five bus runs, five tiers. Most school districts have three. This makes it a little more difficult. We are not seriously considering it at the moment. At the high school we are talking administratively. But, that's as far as we've got."

Goals from page A1

Enhance Civic Theatre operations and expand attendance.

"The objectives may change," said Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff said. He held off making further comments until the council meets.

The seven goals are not in any specific order, said Farmington Mayor Jim Mitchell.

"Some are new," Mitchell said. "We made a few adjustments. We want to put some emphasis on those things and work a little harder."

These include the commitment to environmental improvement, aesthetic enhancement of the community, public recognition for people and organizations who demonstrate special community achievement, productivity of the DDA, enhancement of the Civic Theatre and expanding attendance.

Specific policies will also be considered for approval. They are:

A yearly meeting for the purpose of assessing needs, establishing goals and setting priorities.

Governmental processes which are open to residents, institutions and businesses "to the extent consistent with law and prudence."

Officials and city employees of the city will conduct themselves in a way to build the community's confidence in government and nurture the integrity of government policies and procedures.

The city will support initiatives and regulations which protect and improve the physical environment, maintain public properties, improve the general health and enhance the appearance of the community.

The city will enforce regulations and encourage citizens and organization, to protect and preserve the cultural and historical heritage of the community.

Forest Elementary hosts Stargazing Night Jan. 7

By Sue Buck
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Forest Elementary students and parents have the opportunity to handle actual moon rocks first Stargazing Night Jan. 7.

Following a 1999 trip to NASA's jet propulsion laboratory in California, Kathy Koperski:

who teaches fourth and fifth grades, became certified to borrow moon rocks loaned out to school groups.

"They are very small, dime sized," Koperski said. "There are four different samples. They were brought back from six of the Apollo missions."

Chris Walker, a second grade teacher, is also helping to orga-

nize the evening activities. The night is planned to enrich the course work studied in the second, fourth and fifth grades.

Astronomers are bringing high-powered telescopes, Koperski said.

Younger students will decorate star cookies, make planet mobiles and create constellations.

Funeral from page A1

Marie, the president of Villa Marie, a two-year Catholic college in Buffalo.

Sister Francine, 60, a Detroit native, was the oldest of six children of the late Hector and Irene Van de Vyver. She entered the Felician Order in 1959 and pronounced her final vows in 1967.

She taught in schools throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit, including Ladywood High School

in Livonia where she taught choir and orchestra.

She held a bachelor of arts degree from Madonna and master's and doctoral degrees from Wayne State University.


As Madonna's fifth president, she guided the college, now Madonna University, through 26 years of growth and development. In addition, she contributed time and energy to communi-

ty groups in Livonia and throughout Michigan.

She was honored throughout her life with awards for her educational accomplishments and community service.

Memorials to Sister Mary Francine can made to the Felician Sisters Retirement Fund, 36800 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48154.

By Sue Rosiek



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