Parochial shared time talk postponed

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Discussion of the proposed
shared time programming between
Farmington Public Schools and
Our Lady of Sorrows School, tentatively schoolude for the Feb. 19
school board meeting, has been
delayed until March 6.
"I couldn't get it done and

delayed until March 5.

"I couldn't get it done and reviewed in two weeks," explained Cheryl Cannon, assistant superintendent for business, finance and

operation. Winter break also entered into

Winter break also entered into the timeline, she said.

A draft plan is the hands of farmington Public School board members, she said. The delay wasn't due to criticism by some OLS parents.

parents.

The plan calls for four Farmington public school teachers to teach OLS students in art, music and physical education at OLS in the 2002/2003 school year. The number of OLS faculty is expected to remain at 47.

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After startup costs, the district hopes to create a revenue stream of about \$175,000-\$200,000, a wel-come amount because the district is looking at a budget deficit. Parish leaders also considers it a positive exchange, although they

remain cautiously optimistic.

"It's a wonderful opportunity," said Magr. Walter Hurley. "There has been no final decision. We don't know if the public school board will agree to the project."

Farmington School Superintendent Bob Maxfield had predicted the school board would approve shared time programming with OLS at its Feb. 19 meeting. Maxfield couldn't be reached for comment, because he was at an administrator's conference in San Diogo-Farmington School Board President Cathy Webb said Thursday she didn't know why it wasn't on the agenda.

she didn't know why it wasn't on the agenda.
"It could be because there was some negative renetion from parents." Webb said.
The Farmington Observer received several calls from OLS paristioners whose children attend OLS school. They were eager to register their opinions and ast questions, but were reluctant to be quoted directly for a variety of reasons.

sons.
Callers expressed a fear of being
"black balled" or ostracized and
worried that they would be perceived as being distrustful or discourteous to Hurley. They feared it
was "a done deal."

Cannon said she received and returned all three phone calls from OLS parishioners. Besides questions about the plan itself, they asked whether a teacher drass code would be enforced and whether teachers could have body piereings. Cannon referred the question about dress to the personnel office.

Callers told her they wouldn't have known about the plan if they hadn't read the local paper.

Hurley forwarded information contained in the parish newsletter Feb. 3, 10, and one for today, Feb. 17.

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"As we began to discuss the possibilities and the Parish Council." All the commission and the Parish Council. There would be no change commission and the Parish Council. The possibilities and was worth further exploration. I also consulted with various Archdioces an staff, as well as parishes where the program has worth further exploration. I also been the program has worth further exploration. I also consulted with various Archdioces where the program has worth further exploration. I also been in place in a number of Catholic schools, at least back to the 1860s."

The intent was to inform parents

about the details of a shared time program once there was a better sense of the outcome of the discussions with Farmington Public Schools, he wrote.

"Could we have done a better job communicating with parents?" Hurley said. "Yes."

Hurley's conversations

Other points noted in his columns were:

an opportunity to expand music to the upper grades and possibly add a band for both beginning and advanced students.

Unsigned

Unsigned

An anonymous communication from "Concerned Parents of Our Lady of Sorrows Students," was sent Feb. 18 to Maxifeld and school board members, as well as religious officials. The writers suggested withholding financial support of OLS until their positions are reconsidered.

"Anonymous e-mails are destructive because you don't know who to address," Hurley said.

Concerns mentioned were:

Col.S can exercise no control over who is hirde to teach these subjects, no control over the performance of the public school teachers provided, and no control over the means and methods of the teachers provided by the Farmington School District.

District.

Crucifixes will be displaced.

There will no longer be religious content in art, music and gym programs furnished by public school teachers.

Public school teachers selected

■ Public school teachors selected to teach at OLS could make as much as \$70,000, "creating a negative impact on the morale of our own devoted teachers making substantially less."
■ Tution is "already substantial" (with a 10 percent tuition increase scheduled for 2002-2003).

Commission seeks 'Pav It Forward' stories

The Commission on Children, Youth and Families each year honors community volunteers and has chosen the Pay It Forward" theme to recognize good deeds and acts of kindness.

Based on the book and movie of the same name, Pay It Forward" represents the concept of doing a good deed, then asking only, that the recipient do a good deed for someone else. The Commission's program supports Farmington Community Library's "Everybody's Reading: Pay It Forward" effort, which is also endorsed by the Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council.

To encourage participation, the Commission is assonigent as seeding at the Commission is assonigent as seeding at the Commission is assonigent as the control of the commission is assonigent as a seeding at the commission is assonited as a seeding at the commission is assonited as a seeding at the commission is assonited as a seeding at the commission is as a seeding

tural/Multiracial Community Council.

To encourage participation, the Commission is seeking stories about good deeds and their benefits. The good deed may be something large or a small kindness, may have happened only once or more frequently. It may have been performed by a stranger, friend or loved one. Written responses should be no more than two paragraphs and may be submitted anonymously. Stories will be featured in the local press, and must be malled or e-mailed by March 30 to: Beverly Papai, Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48334; papaihev@farmlib.org.

Give shared time a chance, proponents say

sbuck@oc.homecomm.net
Sue Jokinen is sold on the idea
of shared time programming proposed between Farmington Public
Schools and Our Lady of Sorrows

in Farmington. Her vote of confidence comes Her vote of confidence comes from experience. When daughter, Amy, now in OLS fifth grade attended Our Lady of Loratto School on Six Mile at Beech Daly in Redford Township, that school had a similar program with the Redford Union School district.

"It worked great," Joskiene said. "It helped to provide, It was nice way to build rapport between the school system and Our Lady of Loretto."

the school system and Our Lady of Loretto."

When Amy was in kindergarten, the Loretto children were bused to Volney Smith Elementary School where they toolwart, gym and computers, "she said.

After the RU district experienced an overflow of students, public school teachers came to the Our Lady of Loretto building." It was a positive educational experience," Jokinen said. "It's still a Catholic school. They have not

Depot

from page A1

from page AI

Councilman Jerry Ellis asked whether the outside storage area, which is designed as a high brick wall with wrought iron railings on top, could be made to look "less like a jail."

Home Depot representative Tim Platt replied, "That is a bit of a security issue, It's hard to garnish that in a way to provide needed security, but we're open to suggestions."

Councilwoman Vicki Barnett suggested a wrought iron lattice might provide a "softer look."

Officials also discussed the height of the building, which at its front seak is 43 feet and exceeds zoning ordinance requirements. However, the majority of the building is 35.5 feet high, which falls within standards.





changed their morals or ethics
because of it. It was great, a nice
opportunity. We got some use out
of our tax money. We were very
pleased. I fully support it. I'm anx
ious to see what they have to

Jokinen suggests critics give the program a chance. "A lot of com-

behind the plan. Though he no longer has children in OLS school, he sits on the OLS parish council.

"I'm surprised there has been as much consternation," McInerney said. "It sounds like a good thing for both the school system and OLS. It allows for the teaching of programs Sorrows doesn't do right now. The Monsignor has discussed this with us and everybody thought it was a good lide." thought it was a good iden."





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