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the senior project. Building level committees will link with a district level group, she said.

The process will also include community involvement. "It may not apply to students for several more years," said Farmington Public School Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

Students who don't normally shine can do so with the senior project, said board member Linda Enberg. "It's from their hearts."

She suggested showing parents a video board members have seen about senior projects in Asheville, North Carolina. Asheville is described as a similar community to the Farmington area.

### Parents concerned

A group of six parents attended the curriculum committee meeting prior to the Board's regular meeting and expressed their surprise that the district is still considering a senior project. Karen Fehl asked that the board not "embrace" this until parents can learn more about it.

Karen Rogers, a parent whose children attend North Farmington High and Duncok Middle School spoke during the regular meeting. "I am most concerned with the senior project," Rogers said. "I feel that there should have been some kind of town hall meeting to educate the parents on the criteria."

Board member Jack Inch, who opposed the concept, said that the senior project "opens the door to subjectivity."

"There is no specific criteria," Inch said. "I don't like where it is headed. We are getting too subjective in our grading system."

Officials also discussed the financial implications, which haven't yet been determined.

Board President Cathy Webb told committee members, "Don't limit your dreams or restrict yourself because of budget problems."

Inch, however, called it a sinkhole. "It will take a lot of money to get off the ground," he said.

Maxfield urged a look at all the issues. "We are saying to skeptics and romantics alike, join us in this adventure."

## Graduation Standards

■ New requirements of .5 credit in the fine arts and .5 credit in applied arts/technology

■ A significant increase, from 13.5 to 17.5, in the proportion of required courses over elective courses

■ An increase from three to four credits in English/Language Arts

■ An increase from two to three credits in mathematics

■ An increase from two to three credits in science

■ Reallocation of the existing three credit social studies requirement

The balance of the current credit requirements, those in the areas of health/physical education and SMART, SET, Seminar is unchanged.

New specifications include:

■ Completing .5 credit in a course that addresses issues of diversity, to be selected from a menu of courses that meet the requirements

■ Mastery of the technology benchmarks currently being established by the district

■ Students earning a maximum of four credits (eight semesters) via extended learning opportunities (on-line learning, correspondence courses, and others form approved institutions) to satisfy their graduation requirements

■ Maintaining an Educational Career Development Plan

■ Participating in a work-based learning experience aligned with the state career reduction program and related to a Career Pathway that interests them

■ Completing a senior project for graduation

For more information on graduation requirements, call Jan Colliton, assistant superintendent for instruction at (248) 489-3327, Gerry Fouchey at (248) 489-3406 or Laura Sparrow at (248) 489-3499.

## Doctor from page A1

aspiring physicians. While he worked as a pediatrician, he learned that communications skills were nearly as important as his medical skills.

"You have to relate to both the child and the mother," Weiner said, adding that sometimes it was more difficult for him to relate to parents than children.

Earaches and the common cold were the most common medical complaints he treated. In recent years, he also saw more patients for childhood asthma and saw an increase in the number of obese children.

Lifestyle is largely to blame for childhood obesity, he said.

"Children watch too much television and their diets are not particularly healthy," Weiner said.

Sometimes his observations about obese children weren't taken very well by parents, many of whom said they were obese themselves.

Another children's health issue Weiner considers important is vaccinations. They have come under fire in recent years because of their supposed connection to autism and hepatitis.

"This really has never been proven," Weiner said.

Vaccines have all but eliminated diseases such as measles, German measles and polio, and a new chicken pox vaccine appears to be working that way, too.

There are 100 deaths a year from chicken pox," Weiner said.

Despite 40 years of medical experience, making the transition from doctor to patient was still difficult for Weiner. He got a crash course in dealing with caregivers during his four-year treatment and recovery process.

"Sure, I got upset with some of the residents and interns in the hospital when I thought they weren't moving fast enough. But, I realized they were very busy."

His patience and understanding did not go unnoticed.

"After my transplant, the



Dr. Allen Weiner

nurses fought over who got to care for me," he said.

Another caregiver was his own wife of 39 years, Betty.

"(She) has just been a rock for me," Weiner said. "When I came home, I was in a hospital bed and couldn't go upstairs. And she was at the hospital every single day."

Betty Weiner said she looks forward to him having some freedom in her husband's retirement years.

"I want him to do whatever he wants to do," Betty Weiner said.

A mother of three former patients echoed those sentiments and said she remembers him primarily for his personality.

"He was just a happy, friendly guy and was real easy to talk to," said Sue Reynolds of Farmington Hills, whose 6, 8 and 8-year-old daughters were his patients.

"There's just not enough good things I can say about him."

Reynolds said that Weiner's trump card for dealing with children was his trademark stethoscope with small toy animals hanging from it.

"Babies were always grabbing at it," she said.

## OCC hosts Wine Walk

Oakland Community College's Hospitality Department hosts its seventh annual Great Lakes Wine Walk Around Tasting at the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills, Wednesday, May 15.

Starting at 6 p.m. the gala spotlights the unique wines produced by the distinct climate surrounding the Great Lakes.

Before the event, professional judges from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New York, Indiana, Illinois and the Province of Ontario will taste and judge each of the 500 entries. Medals will be awarded. The public will be able to sip, swirl and savor the products, along with food from Steve and Rocky's, Travis Pointe Country Club, Pine Lake Country Club and The Fox and Hounds until 8:30 p.m.

Admission tickets are \$40 and are tax-deductible. Proceeds benefit a scholarship fund for student in the OCC Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management programs.

## C'ville's new film course is rated PG-13

By JONI HUBBARD  
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Clarenceville School Board members have approved a somewhat controversial new class offering, but at a modified level.

At their April 11 meeting, board members expressed concerns over the "R" rating on movies proposed for high school teacher Josh Green's "Issues in Social Science Film" class. Green said the class is designed to get kids talking by showing them films that reflect events in history.

But it was the material in films like "Schindler's List" and "JFK" that got board members talking. They discussed their concerns at a study session prior to Thursday's meeting and concluded they would approve the course, with a caveat: films must be rated no more "adult" than PG-13.

Green's proposal includes a variety of activities to support each film viewing, which would take place over two class periods.

Students would work with computer simulations, keep journals and participate in field trips to places like the Holocaust Museum, among other activities.

### Advantages

In his course proposal, Green, who is an admitted film buff, said the advantages of the course included a relatively inexpensive start-up budget.

"All but three films I already own," he said, noting he would be willing to use his own VCR and the Social Studies department has a DVD player, along with a data projector that would allow the films to be shown in larger size.

"There would be no textbook. Reading material would come primarily from the Internet, newspapers and magazines," Green added.

One of the pre-requisites for the class is parental permission. It was already on the list of fall course offerings; students who elected not to participate after seeing the list of films or whose parents didn't wish them to participate, would be allowed to

participate, would be allowed to take a different class, Principal David Simowski told board members at their April 11 meeting. Green was out of town and unable to attend Thursday's board meeting.

The new class offering was made possible by the switch to block scheduling, which will allow students to take more electives. The high school held two "mock block" days last week, which went over well with staff and students, Simowski said.

Kids had their regular classes, but in longer time periods. Additionally, they were allowed to attend a seminar on Thursday. Those covered a variety of lighter subjects; for instance, some students worked in the school's television studio. Simowski said the staff wanted to make those times fun for their students.

During the regular block year, academic tutorials will also be offered.

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