

SHARED
FROM PAGE A1

"We have the means to build world class programs by ourselves," said Jim Wagner, who opposes shared time and whose children attend OLS. "We don't need to take money from the state."

PRECEDENT

The proposed one-year letter of agreement states the parties will agree to abide by the terms of two related court decisions. In *Agostini vs. Felton* (1997), the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on religious liberty, allowed public school teachers in nonpublic schools.

A New York parochial school board challenged a District Court's upholding of a 12-year-old court decision (*Agular vs. Felton*) prohibiting public school teachers from teaching in parochial schools. The new proposal from the city offered help to needy students in private schools by sending public school teachers to tutor them after school.

New York was forced to offer remedial help to students through "local educational agencies" and parochial school students did not need to attend public schools in order to be eligible for the assistance. The only students permitted to receive the federally-funded assistance were those who lived in low-income areas, who failed or were at risk of failing the state's student performance standards.

In 1984, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in *Snyder vs. Charlotte Public School District* that a private school student could take an extracurricular class in the public school,

A Michigan statute already exists which requires schools to allow 'shared-time instruction' with private school students.

as long as the private school she attended did not offer that class and the class was not a core subject.

A Michigan statute already exists which requires schools to allow "shared-time instruction" with private school students. The Farmington/OLS agreement allows for review in successive one-year terms by mutual agreement.

SUPPORT

At a Feb. 11 school board meeting, Hurley said the parish received 1,057 cards of support. The signed and formatted confidential cards allowed people to vote in support of shared time with no specific space provided for nonsupport. Two cards were sent home to each OLS family.

Hurley said 517 cards came from OLS School parents and 540 from those without children in the school. Nine cards, three of which were unsigned, indicated opposition. There are 3,100 families in the parish and about 1,110 students in preschool through eighth grade.

OLS Principal Jim Watson has characterized opposition to the plan as a "small minority." Farmington Supt. Bob Maxfield told OLS school parents last spring that he wanted

to see a strong level of support (more than 50 percent). Opponents have asked how support can be measured, when no formal vote was ever taken.

During a recent program aired on FPS's school access channel, Maxfield said the district has no other way to generate revenue besides the shared time arrangement and the out-of-district schools of choice plan, which is also on the same agenda Thursday.

Maxfield was in Florida this week and unavailable for comment.

Sue Zuravle, assistant superintendent for staff and community services, said Thursday the agreement will be mutually beneficial. "I'm comfortable with the level of support demonstrated by Our Lady of Sorrows at the last board meeting."

Judy Farran, an OLS parishioner, whose three grown children attended OLS School, said she didn't turn in a card because she's against shared time.

"My husband and I were against this from the very beginning," Farran said, adding they fear it could be the beginning of even more government involvement.

However, some opponents have said they no longer speak out publicly for fear of retribution or because they plan to send their children to another school next year. A privately-funded survey by parishioner Randy Bengerson, severely criticized by Hurley, showed an almost two-to-one level of opposition.

COSTS INVOLVED

After about \$60,000 in start-up costs paid for by the public school district, FPS would realize about \$168,000 in revenue, according to Paul Barber, director of fine arts.

OLS would realize an estimated \$150,000-\$200,000 in savings, which Watson wants to use to improve technology, library and science labs.

Church officials have touted the financial benefits of a shared time proposal. In a Feb. 2 OLS bulletin, tuition scenarios presented to help parents prepare for the 2003-04 school year indicated shared time would result in a savings of about \$130 annually in the base tuition rate. Source: Observer & Eccentric net (248) 477-5459

Sons of Norway to put pasty question to rest on March 7

Members and guests of the Sons of Norway will be able to put to rest, once and for all, the most nagging question concerning fine dining in Michigan.

Should pasties be made with or without rutabaga?

Pasties are hot meat- and vegetable-filled pies created in Cornwall, England. Finnish miners in Michigan's Upper Peninsula often took the highly portable party to work in their lunchbuckets.

Many Norwegians who immigrated to the U.P. quickly adopted these hearty, tasty delicacies as their own. But the

controversy over whether to include diced rutabaga among the ingredients was never resolved.

Nordkap Lodge of the Sons of Norway will decide once and for all, the democratic way. Each person who attends Nordkap's March 7 dinner meeting at the Swedish Club in Farmington Hills will be given two halves of a pasty. One half will be made with rutabaga, the other half without.

The suggested donation of \$5 includes pasty, beverage and salad. Doggie boxes will be available.

The Swedish Club is located

at 22398 Ruth Street in Farmington Hills. Members of Nordkap Lodge, their families and guests and friends of Norway are welcome to attend, but reservations are requested.

Call (248) 398-5976 to reserve a spot.

The social gathering begins at 7 p.m., with dinner following at 7:30 p.m.

The brief cultural program following dinner will be a Yoopter-themed event.

The lodge will not tackle the other unresolved question about pasties: ketchup or gravy? Both will be available at the table.

Class offers babysitting information

Kids age 11 to 14 can learn the fundamentals of childcare in "Babysitting: Not just Kids' Stuff," offered by Botsford Center for Health Improvement.

The class is offered Saturdays March 15 and 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fee is \$35.

This comprehensive instruction includes: childhood growth and development, how to effectively communicate with children, how to recognize and respond to common household emergencies, tips on obtaining babysitting jobs and setting

fees. Those who attend both sessions will receive a certificate that shows course completion.

The instructor, Judy Beyersdorf, LPN, is an American Red Cross Certified Nurse and has an extensive teaching background. She has provided in-service programs to teachers at Northville Public Schools and lectured in the community on mother, baby and family topics.

Beyersdorf developed two mother/baby support groups at Botsford General Hospital and

leads their meetings each month. She has been active in the PTA, the Gifted Program in the Northville Public Schools, Northville Woman's Club, County Girls Fanciers and Garden Association, as well as teaching for Northville Community Education and Recreation Department for 19 years. Botsford Center for Health Improvement, 39750 Grand River Avenue, is located between Haggerty and Meadowbrook in Novi. To register, call (248) 477-6100

Walsh College meets NSA standards

The National Security Agency has officially recognized that the Walsh College Information Assurance curriculum meets the national standards established by the National Telecommunication and Information Systems Security Committee.

Walsh College, with a campus in Novi, is the only educational institution in Michigan with the NSA recognition, and one of fewer than 40 schools in the country.

"It is an honor for our program to be certified by the federal government," said Jeff Reor, director of the Information Assurance Center at Walsh College. "Walsh is now recognized for building a quality Information Assurance educational program that is focused on developing the security workforce of the future."

Reor, director of the Information Assurance Center at Walsh College.

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"It is especially important that we direct our attention to our technology infrastructure as we increase our efforts in Homeland Security," said Walsh College President Keith Prety, "and we're honored that the NSA has recognized the quality of education here at

Walsh to help meet the information security needs of the nation.

The Walsh College Information Assurance Center (IAC) is now the focal point for all information systems security activities in its community.

Walsh College will host a symposium of FBI InfraGuard on "Preparing for Cyber War," from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, at the Novi Campus.

Reor will moderate a panel discussion of information systems security professionals.

To register, call 1-800-WALSH-02.

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SPOTLIGHT ON Orthodontics
by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.
WHEN SURGERY IS NEEDED

While the majority of teeth and jaw alignment problems can be corrected with orthodontics alone, there are cases when the orthodontist must work in tandem with a surgeon to make the necessary correction. Orthognathic (jaw) surgery may be necessary when the jaws are improperly positioned at birth, or when the problem arises after birth as a result of heredity or trauma. In most cases, the orthodontist can manipulate the growing bones in younger patients to set both teeth and jaws on the course to correct positioning. If the underlying skeletal problem is severe or the patient is an adult with fully formed bones, it may be necessary to correct the underlying problem with surgery, then align the teeth properly.

Each person has a different set of teeth and different needs in achieving a beautiful smile. But today's orthodontics allow for many different options. To discuss which route is right for you, call THE ORTHODONTIC GROUP, 442-8885. Located at 19850 Middlebelt, we would be glad to explain our services, such as the Twin Block, the Maxilla bite advance, the palatal expander, and the retainer. Payment plans and terms are available. Look for our next article in two weeks.

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BRUCE
FROM PAGE A1

ence and insight into the city that will be important in terms of development and financial challenges."

He added, "Farmington Hills will continue to experience the effects of decrease in revenue-sharing, and we must make city government run more efficiently and smarter to avoid any tax increase or cut in service."

Bruce is a licensed psychologist in private practice. He also works at Special Tree Rehabilitation System in Romulus, treating brain-injured adults. He is the father of a 12-year-old daughter and has been a Farmington Hills resident for 17 years.

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