

today's hot line

Vol. 83 No. 91 20 Pages 2 Sections

bulletin

County Picks Vagnozzi

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners Thursday named Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington a member of its election scheduling committee.

Vagnozzi, a member of the Farmington Board of Education, will fill out an unexpired term on the committee which ends Dec. 31.

The election scheduling committee of the county is a three-member agency consisting of one township clerk, one city clerk and one school trustee.

The vacancy occurred when the school representative did not seek re-election to his local school board.

Vagnozzi, a Farmington Township resident, is employed as editor of the AFL-CIO News.

what's inside

Pro and Con

Farmington residents Monday will decide the fate of Farmington Schools request of 3.5 mills for one year. Inside today's edition, voters may find the views of school trustees on why they feel the tax is necessary and letters from readers, pro and con, concerning the millage.

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The Warrant

Defense attorney Jack Bain describes as "interesting" the series of maneuvers which occurred prior to issuance of a warrant and arraignment of his client, Aldo Vagnozzi, on a charge of assault and battery. The complainant is leader of the recall drive and against the school millage, and the defendant, Vagnozzi, is target of the recall and a millage supporter.

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ROOT FOR THE HOME TEAM!



Baseball is exciting -- especially when your son's at bat with two out and the bases are loaded. Observer sports writers and photographers capture this excitement in every issue of your hometown newspaper.



MILLAGE BOOSTERS — Two Harrison High School students, Lorraine and Kim McEachin, were among the many Farmington students canvassing the community last week delivering door-to-door literature prepared by the school district to explain necessity of the millage proposal to be decided Monday. (Evert photo)

\$2,000 Tag For FLE

Hoping to put to rest speculation over costs of the Family Life Education (FLE) program, the Farmington Board of Education voted a \$2,000 limit Tuesday on total expenditures for the three courses.

It also directed that an accounting of expenditures be presented to the board by the business office at the end of the school year.

The \$2,000 would cover in-service training for teachers and materials and other costs for the three FLE programs -- drug abuse, minority understanding and sex education -- exclusive of teacher classroom time.

Board President Richard Peters said intent of the resolution was "basically to establish in a very clear manner the extent of budget expenditures (for the programs) because there has been quite a bit of misinformation."

With Dr. Mervyn B. Ross absent on vacation, the board vote was 5-1, with Mrs. Betty Brennan the lone dissenter. Mrs. Brennan said she opposed any expenditure for it whatsoever.

PETERS ALSO used the occasion of accepting a letter from the Harrison High Band and Orchestra Boosters Club to spike a second "misinterpretation of school spending" which he said was circulating in the district and had to do with band expenditure for band uniforms.

"It has not always been clear to some people," Peters said, "that the \$6,000 committed by the board for the uniforms is from the building and site funds and provided, as we have in the past, for other new buildings in the district. There has been some misinterpretation that the money comes from the school operating budget. It does not."

A final public financial statement will be issued as soon as all bills are received and paid," Tomchak said. "In the meantime, the monies have been deposited in a bank and are under the guardianship of our treasurer and trustees."

IN OTHER actions, the board voted to authorize expenditures up to \$2,000 to provide a private counseling area at Dunckel Junior High and approved continuation for another year of the topical fluoride application program offered to children in kindergarten, second and fifth grades.

Joseph Nicia, director of secondary education, reported that counselors will be instructed to advise students of the Rouge River cleanup scheduled for Sept. 11 and 18 in the event they wish to participate on a voluntary basis. Both dates are Saturdays.

At the suggestion of Trustee Kenneth Perrin, the administration agreed to compile a file of citizens in the community with specialized knowledge or skills who might be called on for advice or help on suitable occasions.

Supt. Roderick Smith called it "a fine suggestion which we have tried to utilize on a number of occasions."

Kiwanians Will Not Underwrite Football

Reports circulated Thursday that the North Farmington Kiwanis Club will underwrite the fall football program if the millage is defeated Monday have been declared completely false by club officers.

The rumor was that the Kiwanians would underwrite the fall football program and other parent groups would pitch in to raise funds to rescue high school football if the 3.5 mills (\$3.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) is defeated.

CLUB OFFICERS emphatically told this newspaper Thursday their is absolutely

Big Turnout Seen For 2nd Tax Vote

By MARTHA MAHAN

A near record but still smattering turnout from 23,000-plus registered voters is expected at the polls Monday to decide whether to grant Farmington Public Schools an extra 3.5 mills for one year.

Denial will mean no extra-curricular activities, reduced counseling, and services cut to the bone for young persons returning to school two weeks hence, the board of education said.

To provide voters with factual answers to questions, the board has established a daylong "truth line" telephone service today (Saturday). The number, 477-1096, will be manned from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

BOARD OFFICES will also be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today to dispense and receive absentee ballots. Today is the last day to apply for such ballots and 4 p.m. Monday the deadline for their return.

Polls will be open Monday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. and results are expected to be known by 9 or 9:30 p.m., according to Byron E. Oliver, director of administrative services and school election clerk.

More than 600 absentee ballots had been given out by mid-week, Oliver said, leading him to forecast a vote total running between 6,000 and 7,000. That would be the second highest in district history, topped only by the 7,300 votes cast June 14 when a curfew millage proposal was turned down.

HOPEs THAT terms of the 1971-72 teacher contract would be settled and made known to the public before the election were dashed with President Nixon's wage-price-rent freeze.

Untangling the many questions left unanswered in the presidential message left

too little time to arrive at agreement before the election, said Robert Neuhauser, president of the Farmington Education Assn., (FEA), which represents the teachers in collective bargaining.

No postponement of the election was possible, even in face of uncertainties over effects of the presidential order and teacher costs, because the school board must set the tax levy by Sept. 1 in order for it to be collected for the coming year.

Board President Richard Peters, however, pledged that "if there should be any possibility of making a saving as a result of the freeze on wages or prices of items the district must purchase, the savings would be withheld from the budget and not used to reimburse any part of the budget the board has indicated will be cut."

"We will live by indications the board has given of what the budget will be, either with or without millage," Peters said.

INDICATIONS ARE, too, that the Legislature will withhold any savings from state aid that might be realized to the district from the wage-price freeze, according to Trustee Aldo Vagnozzi, the board's legislative committee chairman.

Supt. Roderick Smith emphasized that he saw no significant change in the school's total 1971-72 budget as a result of the Nixon action. "The wage-price freeze is only temporary," Dr. Smith said, "and we're looking at a total year's budget, not 90 days."

Neuhauser said the FEA might settle for a contract with a clause allowing reopening of wage talks when the economic situation was better known. But he did not see the wage freeze as helping the district financially.

THE UNION IS much more interested in increasing the number of teachers to be hired than in hiking the percentage of pay increase, he said.

To prevent long waits at the polls, such as were experienced in the record June balloting, Oliver has instituted changes which he figures will allow for handling of twice as many voters in the same length of time.

Two tables and two sets of

poll books will be set up at each of the district's four polling places instead of the normal one. One table will handle those whose last names begin with the letters A through L and the second M through Z.

Also speeding election procedure will be the fact that voters have only the one question to decide, in place of both millage and a choice of new board trustees facing them in June.

editorial Your 'Yes' Is Needed

Farmington has a second chance Monday to decide if quality education for youngsters is desirable. On the ballot will be a request for 3.5 mills (\$3.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) to be levied for one year for operation.

The tax would mean an extra \$70 in tax dollars for the owner of a \$40,000 home or about \$5.80 per month.

WE APPLAUD the district for giving residents a second chance, by offering an entirely different proposal than the 4.5 mill package defeated in June, to rescue the educational programs of Farmington Schools.

The Farmington Enterprise & Observer strongly urges a "YES" vote on the 3.5 mills because rejection would result in a bitter pill we think the community is hardly willing to swallow.

Because of the June millage defeat the following items have already been eliminated or reduced as follows:

- Interscholastic athletics has been eliminated for all sports at all levels.
- Extra-curricular music has been eliminated and elementary art and music reduced.
- Four elementary schools will not have full time principals, and two administrative assistants have been dropped from secondary schools.
- Five needed new buses cannot be purchased so only those students living more than 1 1/2 miles from school will be bussed.
- The workload for secondary counselors has been reduced and elementary counselors wiped out completely.
- Library services have been reduced and a higher student-teacher ratio exists because of reduction of the faculty.

THESE MAJOR CUTS the board will restore if the millage passes Monday.

The board is on record that any possible savings realized this year because of the wage freeze, lower prices or additional state aid will be kept in the budget with spending not exceeding the restorations the 3.5 mills will buy back.

The extra money for one year is a reasonable price. By comparison, 150 seniors from Farmington High took a senior trip this year to the Bahamas with dad paying the fare at the time of \$180 per student. Likewise, 170 North Farmington seniors went to the Bahamas for about \$165 apiece.

The one-year levy will give the State Legislature its chance to enact the much overdue financial reform package to lighten the overburdened homeowner.

The district has shown good faith by trimming its budget by \$500,000 during the past year. Each year the board has delayed asking for more millage, but time ran out. Now it's balling time.

FARMINGTON TEACHERS have committed themselves to accepting wages within a budget replenished by the 3.5 mills that will still allow the promised restorations.

Because the faculty contract has not yet been signed, the wage freeze enacted by President Nixon will not have much effect on the district's operating budget.

When the freeze is lifted, the district must negotiate and implement a contract for a full year which will include any hike that would have been received during the freeze.

We urge each voter to support the millage Monday so the cuts already enacted can be restored. Know what you're buying and the price will be acceptable.