

1970-1971 Review

SCHOOL CONDUCT CODE -- After a year's study by a special Board of Education committee, a new school conduct code will soon get final review and ultimately become an operating guide.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAM -- The school district took part in the first state-wide compulsory program that showed a highly satisfactory academic experience for all Farmington children.

NEW REPORT CARDS -- were fully supported by parents of elementary school children who have been evaluating the more descriptive assessment of learning as opposed to grade letters.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION committees submitted final guideline proposals to the School Board who subsequently approved the implementation of substance abuse, human sexuality and minority understanding programs into Farmington schools.

HIGH SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS -- High School English and Social Studies, enthusiastically received by both students and faculty in a pilot program last year, were fully instituted in all three high schools.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT -- recruited students to help formulate curriculum for the new vocational education center.

TWO NEW SCHOOLS -- opened their doors to Farmington students for the first time when Wood Creek Elementary and Harrison High helped relieve crowded conditions at other schools. Harrison will graduate its first senior class this year.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL committees consisting of parents, students and teachers submitted final reports to administrative councils on curriculum and procedures in the district's junior high schools.

ELEMENTARY COUNSELING -- a pilot program at Woodlake and 10 Mile Elementary Schools during the past year enjoyed "high success," according to administrative officials.

CURRICULUM REPORTS to the Board of Education on a once-a-month regular basis showed stimulating results. Among these reports were:

- Description of the Special Education services for youngsters in the school district.
- Explanation of the elementary school curriculum and the Title I program.
- Description of the auditory perception pilot program at Gill Elementary School.
- A talk on the Co-op program in high schools here.
- Report on the continuing study of the senior high school counselors' role.
- Transition and program for youngsters moving from the elementary to the junior high school was studied and will be improved during the school year.

DISTRICT READING specialists hosted the second successful "Young Authors Conference" at Farmington High School to stimulate interest in creative writing.

IN-SERVICE TRAINING program was held at Harrison High School to explain proposed Family Life Education guidelines scheduled to be implemented this year.

DRUG PANELS were again conducted at junior and senior high schools with members of "Rap Line" taking part in several meetings.

NEW ADDITIONS at Larkshire, Longacre and Shiawassee Elementary Schools provided new media centers to inspire "open concept" learning at these schools.

TWO MILLAGE PROPOSALS were defeated at the polls by Farmington voters despite warnings from the School Board that staff, services and programs would be cut.

CITIZENS RALLIED to save athletics and all non-athletic school activities such as the school paper, yearbook, drama, debate, pledging nearly \$50,000 in private funds.

NORTH FARMINGTON HIGH went all the way to win the State Football Championship last year. Both North and Farmington Senior High won their league championships in baseball and Farmington High also grabbed the league championships in golf and cross country track.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

Twice during the past summer the voting community of the Farmington School District has rejected a proposal to continue school services at or near last year's level. Many interpretations have been given to these election results. Some feel a lessening of our traditional support for quality education.

We suggest that what we have witnessed is not necessarily a denial of value, but rather an increasing concern about the cost and the level of local taxation.

Your Board of Education recognizes this mandate to reduce expenditures, and will continue to:

- Provide the best educational experience possible for every student with the available revenue.
- Operate the Farmington School District strictly within the framework of a balanced budget.
- Improve curriculum content and presentation within budgetary confines.
- Encourage achievement and excellence at every level of our program.
- Seek unification of the diverse attitudes of our school community.
- Communicate thoroughly concerning the content of our programs on the funding level necessary to support them.
- Effect cost reductions whenever and wherever possible by improving the efficiency of our business operations.
- Continue to work for relief from excessive dependence on property tax.

At the beginning of this 1971-72 school year, your Board of Education faces a considerable task. Uncertainties abound, and new problems seem to appear daily. Even at this writing, the level of state assistance is not known.

Only with your understanding, patience, cooperation and assistance can we hope to meet the challenge of operating this reduced program. By design, the impact of reduction has been distributed throughout the system. Every area has suffered curtailments, but the trauma of complete elimination has been avoided, if only by the less-than-desirable methods of private funding and voluntary pay reduction in the extra-curricular student activities field.

Growth of the school population continues, though slowed particularly in the upper grades. Over 200 students have been added by the closing of Our Lady of Sorrows High School. For this reason, planning continues for additional school facilities. This fall, new elementary school classrooms and media centers will be placed in use at Larkshire, Longacre and Shiawassee Elementary Schools, replacing temporary classrooms at two of these locations.

By legislative or court action, significant changes have occurred within the past year. The cost of textbooks now represents a sizable budget item, rather than a direct burden on the parent. Many senior students have, or are about to achieve, voting eligibility, demonstrating vividly the need to prepare for participation in a democratic society.

As the new school year begins, we invite your participation in school activities, your increased interest and knowledge of school operations, and your attendance at Board of Education meetings. To facilitate this, we plan to hold Board meetings in many different schools throughout the district during the year. Please come, feel welcome and share the experience of working together toward our common goal of educational excellence.

Signed:

Richard H. Peters
President

Mrs. Kathryn Stirling
Secretary

Aldo Vagnozzi
Trustee

Kenneth F. Perrin
Vice President

Mrs. Elizabeth Brennan
Trustee

Mervyn B. Ross, M.D.
Trustee

Ronald W. Emmitt
Trustee

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Finances At A Glance

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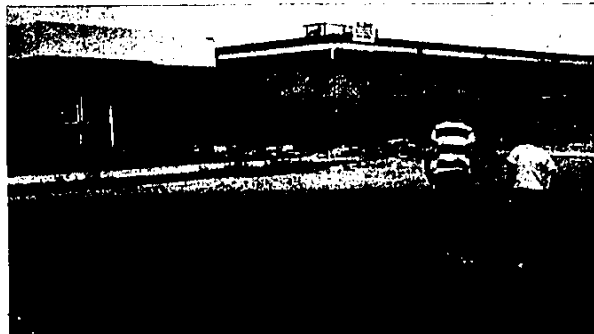
INCOME

Local Taxes	\$ 8,941,998	80.84%
State Aid	5,432,470	36.98%
Federal Funds	11,182	.08%
County and Other District Funds	311,796	2.12%
TOTAL	\$14,697,446	100.00%

OUTGO

Instruction	\$11,803,450	76.14%
Operations and Maintenance	2,231,142	14.39%
Administration	450,368	2.91%
Transportation	349,428	2.25%
Miscellaneous	867,961	4.31%*
TOTAL	\$15,502,339	100.00%

*Includes attendance and health services, fixed charges, capital outlay and community services.



ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS at Larkshire Elementary School were in the making when this construction picture was taken. Two Larkshire students wondered if it would be ready in time for the opening of school. It was, along with the school's new, modern, well equipped media center, staffed by reading specialists. (Fran Evert Photo)

