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School Contract Talks Bog; State Mediator Is Called

By DAN McCOSH

FARMINGTON teachers and administration have agreed to call in a mediator from the State Labor Relations Board for aid in contract negotiations.

Harry Reinfelder, due to arrive at the bargaining table next Tuesday, was also called in during last year's negotiations.

"We're down to hard-core issues," said Leroy Bartman, personnel director heading the administration team.

The FEA is emphasizing "class size" at this point in the negotiations. "Actually, we haven't even started to talk about salaries," said Roger Allen, executive secretary for the Farmington Education Assn.



SUSAN REED, of Farmington, was named winner of the Hazel Mueller memorial award, given for achievement at the National Music Camp, Interlochen. She was active in the choir, operetta workshop and drama department. She accepted the award from Camp Director George C. Wilson.

12 Receive CMU Degrees

Twelve Farmington residents were awarded degrees at Central Michigan University's spring commencement ceremonies recently.

Cum Laude graduates included Elizabeth A. Coffman, 32611 Heathstone, and Betty J. Urbain, 22816 Farmington Road. Vicki L. Saliba, 31912 Olde Franklin, graduated summa cum laude.

Also graduating were Evelyn M. Allen, 26255 Dundalk Lane; Charles A. Button, 31600 12 Mile Road; Kathleen M. Clark, 28038 Brandywine; Joseph E. Domrowski, 21625 Hamilton; Catherine A. Kennedy, 25829 Castlereigh; and Robert O. O'Daniel, 29930 Barwell.

Also, Kevin W. Schultz, 36550 Brittany Hill; Linell J. Shipley, 32303 Bonnet Hill Road; and Susan Lee Steggle, 32744 Biddestone.

The FEA wants a "cap," or maximum class size, spelled out in the contract. Current practice is to average the classes in an individual building.

In an unusual, but not unprecedented move, the FEA began taking out newspaper advertising on its position during the negotiations.

"The public doesn't like it when teachers don't show up for the first day of class—but they really get mad when it is unexpected," Allen said.

Purpose of the ad campaign is to publicize and keep the public aware of the teachers' position as negotiations proceed, Allen said.

He said the ads were paid out of local teachers' dues. Text of the ads and an outline of a suggested campaign are supplied by the state MEA organization, other sources indicated.

Newspaper advertising was tried once before in Farmington, but it backfired—with a protesting ad appearing after the issue was already settled at the bargaining table, according to Allen.

"We are looking for a contract when school opens. We could be in trouble if the other side is considering a different timetable," Allen added.

He was referring to past practice of often settling a retroactive contract as late as December.

Although "hard core issues" are the main ones remaining on the bargaining table, under the table are constant references on both sides to a shift from local to area-wide negotiations.

FEA representatives point to recent meetings between Oakland County superintendents to outline a general bargaining strategy—first tried last year, with results obscured by the wage freeze.

Administration representatives are watching MEA announced plans to coordinate a walkout of area districts if bargaining appears to be going badly.

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Karagozian Wins Award For Photos

FARMINGTON Michael J. Karagozian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Karagozian, Fernhill Drive, Farmington, won second place recognition in the annual presentation of awards in journalism competition sponsored by the Indiana Collegiate Press Association and Sigma Delta Chi for daily newspaper feature photography.

He earned his BS degree in radio and television at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, where he will be teaching this fall.

the Farmington Enterprise Observer

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