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# School Board Hears About Busing, Anti-Busing, Wallace

By SANDRA ARMBRUSTER  
 FARMINGTON  
 Audience participation at the last Farmington Board of

## FEA Tells Objections To Cuts

FARMINGTON  
 Representative of the Farmington Education Association, union for Farmington Schools' teachers, met recently with the Farmington school board and the Farmington PTA Council to express their concerns about contemplated reductions in student services.

"We are interested in making the community aware of our deep concern over the administration's tentative proposal to reduce the students day," said Roger Allen, FEA executive director.

The district's administration is actively considering a proposal whereby junior high students would be in school from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., while their senior high counterparts followed a schedule from 7:35 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., says Allen.

Allen went on to note that the FEA hopes to meet with the Citizens Advisory Committee on finance, prior to any final board action being taken on the proposed reductions.

The current administrative proposal calls for laying off 25 secondary teachers, thus necessitating a reduced student day. "If the administration were to take a more realistic view of state aid, and make some highly overdue reductions in secondary administrative services, such severe curtailments would not be needed," stated Allen.

The FEA is also pushing for a finalized administrative program of reduction to be developed, and then disseminated to the community well in advance of final board action.

Education meeting involved requests on bus routes, complaints from anti-busing campaigners, and questions about why George Wallace was allowed to rent school facilities.

The board replied to audience comments and also reported on construction progress of media centers, accepted bids on bus purchases, and approved the contract with its attorney.

James Ballentine, a homeowner claiming to represent Kendallwood subdivision, asked the board to either help pay for the repair of roads within the subdivision or provide alternate bus routes to Wooddale Elementary School.

"Buses are assisting in creating chuck holes on our roads, we have talked with the township and with the county road commission, and the county agreed that any amount put up by the school board and residents will be matched," said Ballentine.

HE STATED the buses present a hazard to children in the area when they try to avoid the chuckholes.

Ballentine said there are four miles of roads in the subdivision. The bus route can vary from one-third to one mile through the subdivision depending on which route is taken, Ballentine said. As buses tear up the roads, he added, they vary their routes to utilize only the best roads.

"The buses have a difficult time entering traffic on Farmington Rd. and, therefore, tear up the entrances and exits to the subdivision," he explained. More than six buses travel through the subdivision four times a day, according to Ballentine.

Since the only entrance to Wooddale School is through Kendallwood subdivision, Ballentine said: "I feel the school board has a hand in creating chuckholes. I formally ask the board now to pick up its share of the

resurfacing cost, limit the buses to the closest available route or cut roads into the school through other subdivisions to alleviate bus traffic."

After explaining that the board wasn't prepared to give an answer without talking to its attorney, Peters said: "I suspect that we'll choose not to use school funds. I know there are many situations like this in the district."

He added this type of school site location was chosen to avoid the danger of highly traveled roads in proximity to schools.

"We will receive your proposal, study and review it and reply at the next meeting," continued Peters.

LATER IN the meeting, anti-busing proponents were denied permission to send literature home with students in junior and senior high schools in Farmington.

In making her request to the board, Joan Voight said: "We are asking the voters to write their legislators. We are trying in a democratic way to peacefully fight this issue."

Kenneth F. Perrin, board vice-president, replied that: "Schools in the past have been rather careful in what they allow students to take home."

He explained that literature he received contained "political material" and schools should not distribute political matter because that was "not the thing for the school to do."

"I concur in Mr. Perrin's analysis," said Aldo Vagnozzi, trustee. "If we allow the distribution of this literature we will set precedent, and then it will be difficult to turn down other requests. I think there are other avenues in the community and that it would be better to use them."

Mrs. Voight denied that

anything in the literature was "intended to be political."

OTHER MEMBERS of the audience asked why Gov. George Wallace was allowed to rent school facilities. (Gov. Wallace was scheduled to appear in Harrison High School, but rain in Alabama forced cancellation of his appearance. A phone hook-up was used instead.)

Business Manager William Prisk responded: "The school was rented for an 'educational meeting' and we had no idea that Wallace was to appear."

"We were told that persons such as Robert Huber, James O'Neil and I quote: 'Colored students from Detroit and others like that' would be there, and I don't know which of those Gov. Wallace is like."

Another member of the audience complained that literature was sent home with the children advocating the millage, and Peters denied that the literature advocated a yes or no vote.

Elizabeth Brennan, trustee, spoke in favor of the literature. "This literature leaves it to the will of the person receiving it whether they want to respond. I certainly would have no objection to it."

The board then voted to deny Mrs. Voight permission with Mrs. Brennan the only board member opposing the denial.

A THIRD request for an advisory question on busing for the June 12 school election, was also refused by the board.

"There was an advisory vote in Farmington Township. We have been advised that Judge Stephen Roth will make a ruling soon," said Peters. "I guess the people just haven't been listening."

After explaining the board has done all it can until

Farmington is named in a cross-district busing plan, Peters added: "I guess we have to take a flamboyant approach to be noticed. What do we have to do to get recognition?"

The board reported that construction is well underway with the media centers at Gill and Middle Belt elementary schools; however, the construction of Wooddale Elementary School's media center "got off to a slow start because of rearrangements and bad weather." The foundation at Wooddale has now been prepared.

Bids totaling more than \$2,500 were accepted on five buses which the district is replacing.

An agreement which would increase the monthly retainer for legal services of the board's labor attorney was tabled until the next meeting. The board did approve continuation of its present agreement with Robert Kelley for legal services for the 1972-1973 year.

TRUSTEE Aldo Vagnozzi also reported to the board that a suggestion made by Brude Duke, candidate for the school board in the June 12 election, would be illegal to follow.

Duke had suggested that the board use funds appropriated for the construction of the fifth junior high for operating the schools. He claimed that a vote of the people would legalize the action.

Vagnozzi said, however, that according to the opinion of the board attorney the school district may not transfer funds to pay for operating expenses even if the people vote on it.

He added that the attorney cited a 1963 decision by the state attorney general prohibiting such a transfer.

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