

School committee is opposed to levying variable millage

By NANCY STEIN

No variable millage for the Farmington school system was the recommendation of the variable millage task force at Tuesday's school board meeting.

The task force was appointed by the board of education and chaired by Aldo Vagnoni to study the variable tax now being levied on residents of

Farmington Hills, which results in a different rate than for those residents of West Bloomfield Township whose children attend Farmington schools.

The committee presented a very detailed report on the millage to the board before the actual meeting. Unfortunately the matter did not come up on the official agenda until 11:30 p.m.

THE COMMITTEE report was officially recognized as having been received, but discussion on it was deferred until after the next open study session.

That study session will be at 8 p.m., Tuesday, March 12, at the school board offices. Although the committee was aware that the actual constitutionality of a variable millage is in question they skirted the issue, saying, in their report, "such a finding was beyond the competence of the committee."

It based its decision on the law which says the school situation works

a hardship on some residents and not on others in relation to their distance from a school.

The committee found, "It would be difficult to justify a claim that educational services were closer or more accessible to students in Farmington and Farmington Hills than they were for West Bloomfield Township, especially with the recent opening of the Warner Junior High."

SINCE THIS millage represents

\$50,000 this year for the running of the schools, the committee further recommended that the schools immediately look for ways to replace this lost revenue.

The opinion of the committee is not binding upon the school board. The task force members were Joan Barbriek, John Courville, Fred Hughes, Jeffrey Leib, Betty Rowe, Dan Lichtman, Fred Rowe and Richard Wallace.

...and homeowners say they're happy

By NANCY STEIN

No one is happier than Jihad Alkateeb that the Farmington school task force on variable millage brought back a recommendation that it not be levied.

Along with Theodore Gibson and Richard Maicki, and the Farmington Hills council of homeowners, he recently started suit to stop it.

"I find it very exciting news," said Alkateeb.

"The city didn't have to take the money. As far as I'm concerned they have that money illegally, which is the same as if the school board were embezzling."

Alkateeb said that it has come back to him that some people think he is against children and education.

"That's not it at all. Property tax is the only tax people have any control over any more."

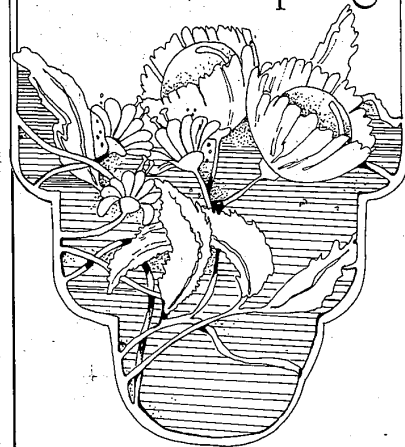
"I don't want that control taken away."

Asked what he thought about the schools losing a half million dollars in revenue, Alkateeb said,

"They should go to the people and say, 'You have good schools and you want good education for your children and that costs money, so we are asking you to vote for additional millage.' That's how I think it should be handled."

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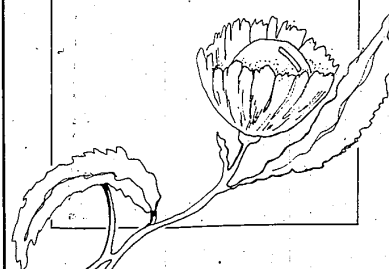
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Warner relatives attend dedication

Sunday was dedication day at Warner Junior High.

This ultra modern school, opened in September is named for the only man Farmington ever sent to Lansing as governor. Fred Warner was governor from 1905 to 1910.

His two daughters, Mrs. Claire Gaukler and Mrs. William Slocum were present at the ceremonies. Mrs. Kay Briggs, representing the Farmington Historical Society, told the audience the historical significance of the school's illustrious name.

Warner's own concert band directed by Richard Cardecia played "Theme from 2001." A program filled with

Speakers for the day included Monique Stacey, president of the student council, Alton L. Bennett, principal of Warner, Marjorie Van Arsdale, superintendent of schools, Dr. Mervyn Ross, president of the Farmington school board, and Lewis Schulman, assistant superintendent.

Rabbi Chaim Rozwaski, of the Hillel Day School, read the invocation and Rev. John Howell, pastor, first Methodist Church of Farmington, read the Prayer of Dedication.

music was presented by the concert band, the concert choir and the Lutkin Choir.

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