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Budget cuts trim school lunch hours

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON—Children in the Farmington school district will be starting school five to 10 minutes earlier in order to accommodate the adjustments in the school district's lunch schedules.

The lunch hours in the elementary schools have been lengthened to accommodate those children who are required to walk home for lunch.

All elementary schools that formerly ran from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. will now run from 9:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and all schools that formerly ran from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. will now run from 8:55 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

The extra ten minutes will permit the district to lengthen the lunch period to one hour and still not interfere with actual classroom time.

THE CHANGE in the lunch schedules came as a result of a recent school board decision requiring all children who live within the square mile boundary of main roads and who regularly walk to school to return home for lunch each day.

It was the opinion of the school board that this would allow the district to save money by reducing the number of noon-time aides utilized by the elementary schools.

According to school business manager William Prisk the change in procedure will mean that the district will require 12 less noon-time aides than it had last year.

He said the number of hours that the noon-time aides work will also be reduced.

According to Prisk the move could save the district approximately \$20,000 annually.

The decision was met with opposi-

tion from many parents who think that the distance is too great for some of the children, particularly the younger ones, to make in the hour allotted by the district.

Parents in at least two schools have already organized to stop the action.

A small group of parents from William Grace went to the school administration building Thursday to meet with Superintendent Martinus VanAmejde and Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Education, Lawrence Freedman.

Freedman and VanAmejde have been meeting with parents, discussing the situation with them since the decision was announced.

"WE ARE MOST interested in not causing the child any great inconvenience," Freedman said. "The board has given the outer limits on who stays and who goes home. The principals will review and give consideration to extenuating circumstances."

"I think the principals are sensitive human beings who will use sensibility and judgment in the matter."

The decision to require the children to go home was made by the school board on Tuesday evening.

Letters were sent home with the children informing the parents of the situation and telling the parents that the decision would go into effect on Monday, Sept. 9.

The decision was passed by a 5-2 vote of the school board. Dr. Mervyn Ross and Mr. William Gracious voted against the decision.

The decision to reduce the number of noon-time aides is one of the reductions the board has made since the defeat of the millage proposal, July 30.



Mrs. Bernice Shandor, a geography teacher at Farmington Jr. High, conducts an introductory course for seventh graders during the new seventh grade orientation program in the Jr. High Schools. (Evert photo)

Junior highs change registration

FARMINGTON—Seventh graders in the Farmington school district's five junior high schools attended a new special orientation program Wednesday morning.

The program was developed by the junior high school principals in response to the parents' concerns about the adjustments the students would have to make when transferring from an elementary school to a junior high.

The older students in the junior highs did not attend any classes until the afternoon session, so the seventh graders could have the school to themselves for a portion of the day.

The students went through what the junior high administrators called "mini-schedules".

They attended all of their classes at least once, but the length of the class periods were shortened.

The shorter class periods were intended to give the students a chance to meet the teachers, receive their textbooks, and learn about the class requirements.

Many of the schools also sponsored a 6th grade orientation program for the students last year.

In the spring the sixth graders who would be attending the junior highs spent a day in the school, with a student guide, visiting the classrooms, libraries, and other facilities.

Parents react with protests

FARMINGTON—The reaction of parents of elementary children to changes in the school lunch procedures has been fast and furious.

Parents began calling the school administration building as soon as they received the notices telling them that all children who live within the square mile boundary of the main roads, and who regularly walk to school will be required to walk home for lunch every day.

The Farmington school board which made the decision to change the procedure, said the decision was made in an effort to save money for the district by reducing the number of noon-time aides.

Prior to that decision, the district has always had an open policy about lunches, children were given the option of staying in school or returning home for the lunch period.

A small group of parents from William Grace went to the school administration building on Thursday to talk to administrators there.

THEY SAID they were concerned because they work and are not able to find a place for their children to eat.

In an effort to make the change more convenient for the walking children the school administration recently decided to add an extra 10 minutes to the school day and extend the lunch period from 50 minutes to an hour.

Many of the parents who live on the outer edges of the boundaries, especially those with young children, are still concerned that they will not have enough time to make it home, eat lunch and get back to school in an hour.

"I think it is grossly unfair," Mrs. Jackie Haskins said. "I don't think it is physically possible for a first grader to walk the distance required in the time they have given. Some of the children will have to walk two miles in that time, plus eat their lunch."

Mrs. Haskins, and other mothers with children in Middlebelt school have organized a committee to try to stop the change in lunch procedure.

THEY HAVE been passing around petitions demanding that the school board reverse its decision.

Some of the parents at Middlebelt are threatening to ignore the requirement and are planning on sending their children to lunch, despite what the administration says.

According to one committee member they have already started to do research to see if they have any legal recourse against the board's decision and are considering seeking an injunction against the move.

One working mother, Marvel Steiger, whose child attends Wooddale said she talked to an administrator at that school for over an hour, attempting to convince him to let her child stay in school for lunch.

"I am the sole supporter of that child," she said. "I work not because I want to, but because I have to. I think they are discriminating against my child by forcing him to go home for lunch."

"My tax dollars pay for the noon aides who will be there, just as much as any other parents do. I asked the principal what will happen if I sent my child to school on Monday with his lunch and I was told that he would be sent out of the school until one o'clock. I am very, very angry about the whole thing."

Although most parents were not aware that the board would be considering changing the lunch procedures at its regular Tuesday night meeting, many of the parents who were there expressed their displeasure.

The planning commission will adopt the changes following the public hearing with any changes incorporated.

Hills set to begin first area-wide garbage pickup

FARMINGTON HILLS—Farmington Hills will be one of the first cities in the metropolitan Detroit area to attempt conducting a city wide paper collection and recycling service.

The paper recycling will be part of the new refuse collection service the city will be providing for the residents beginning Oct. 1.

As part of the contract the company which will be handling the service, G.C.W. Disposal Service has agreed to pick up all bundled newspapers and deliver them to the city for use in a recycling project.

The city is hoping to defray a portion of the cost of the collection with the recycled papers.

Two other cities in the area, Birmingham and Huntington Woods have already tried the city wide recycling project.

THE DECISION to offer the new service to the residents was made by the Hills council following a review of solid waste disposal in the city by council members and private citizens.

There will be no extra charge to residents for the service.

The money for the project will come from the general fund and from Federal revenue sharing funds.

The city will pick up garbage, rubbish, newspaper, yard waste, and Christmas Trees.

The city will pick up any kind of rubbish every week. Under the old system, the larger pieces, such as couches and refrigerators, were only picked up during the semi-annual pick up.

Waste materials resulting from landscaping a house such as grass, weeds, leaves, and twigs, will also be picked up on a weekly basis.

Tree trimmings and brushes must not be over six inches in diameter and three feet in length and must not be over six inches in diameter and three feet in length and must be tied in bundles. Refuse must be placed in either plastic or metal containers with tight fitting lids or in 10-30 gallon plastic trash bags.

A map of scheduled days for pick

up in the individual residential area will be published.

A committee comprised of two council members, Earl Oppertbauer, and Margaret Schaeffer, and four residents, Charles Hill, Nancy Kourjian, Jean Nankervis, and Tom Nolan, reviewed the disposal system in the city and recommended the change to the city wide weekly pick up.

The committee found that although the city did offer once a month pick up service for the residents, the majority were not taking advantage of the service.

The once a month pick up was limited to trash only (bottles, cans, and other non-combustibles).

It was the opinion of the committee that the limitations of this monthly service did not adequately serve the majority of residents in the area since it eliminated paper items and garbage.

The committee also found that most

of the residents were not willing to accumulate their trash for an entire month and consequently utilized the services of a private hauler.

THE COMMITTEES recommended that a weekly city wide collection should be awarded to one hauler based on competitive bids.

The service, which will be provided to all single family residences in Farmington Hills, will cost the city approximately \$2.64 per unit per month.

Individual residents were often paying independent haulers between \$4-6 a month for the service.

City manager George Majoros said residents of Farmington Hills should not extend their contracts with the private haulers beyond the Oct. 1 date.

He said the city has asked the independent haulers to consider refunding the money to the residents who have already paid beyond Oct. 1, but have not received a response yet.

Master plan has hearing

FARMINGTON—Changes in the master plan for the City of Farmington will have a public hearing Monday, Sept. 9, at 8 p.m. in the Farmington city hall.

The master plan is a guide for zoning changes and a guide to future growth, according to city officials.

Major changes proposed include a return to single family zoning on the north side of Grand River. Currently the master plan calls for office zoning along the stretch west of Mayer's Florist shop.

Property along the west side of Drake would be designated for cluster housing under the proposed changes.

The historic district north of the business district would be designated on the new master plan.

The plan is available for inspection at the city hall.

The planning commission will adopt the changes following the public hearing with any changes incorporated.

Building up materials is aim of library head

By DIANE HUBEL

FARMINGTON—There will be a new direction in the development of the Farmington Public Library, with an emphasis on building up the media materials, tapes, phonograph records, and film strips, according to the new director of the library.

Gordon Lewis, who began as new director of the library last week will be replacing Mrs. Mary Mitchell, who announced her retirement in June.

Lewis, who has a masters degree in Library Science and one in education, said he would like to build up the library's stock of media mate-

"People need information," he said, "all people need it, no matter what their age or socio-economic background. Yet, only 25 percent of the nation's population use books as an information source. We would like to reach the other 75 percent of the population."

"In addition we would like to present all materials in the most suitable form, and often a film or a record can more effectively present the material than the printed page can. Libraries are changing. It is no longer enough for them to be purely book oriented. I ultimately hope to work toward a more complete library."

Lewis said the library's present

staff has been primarily involved with the organization and development of the 12 Mile Library and the new library in the city.

Now that the ground work for the new library has been completed he said the staff will redirect their efforts toward maintaining and building the libraries.

He said he will attempt to run the library in such a way to afford the maximum use of the tax dollar.

"In these days of inflation it is important to see that we get the most for our dollar," he said. "I intend to establish good business practices



GORDON LEWIS

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