

Athletic league realignment could affect Farmington

The Livonia Board of Education will consider tonight (Monday) three options on the proposed realignment of sports and activities league members for Bentley and Stevenson high schools.

The decision and possible future action could affect high schools in Wayne-Westland, Plymouth, Garden City, Redford Union and Farmington school districts.

The board will review a four-page report from Supt. George Garver, letters from the Stevenson and Bentley principals and the minutes of a May 28 meeting of the Northwest Suburban Activities Association at which mem-

ber schools expressed satisfaction with the existing league and interest in expanding only to find one more school to round out the league at six schools.

The board will meet in a business session at 8 p.m. in its offices, 15125 Farmington Road.

THE THREE options, basically, are:

1—Do nothing and allow the four Livonia high schools to remain in four separate leagues.
2—Allow a four-school league including Stevenson, Bentley, Redford Union and Plymouth-Salem, if the

board agrees to have two Livonia schools in the same league—a practice prohibited in the past.

3—Approach the Northwest Suburban League and see if it is interested in expanding into a nine-school group with two divisions, five in one and four in the other.

Garver said the Northwest League schools discussed the possibility of an expansion and "indicated they were not particularly interested in this type of alignment."

Garver said three Livonia high schools (Franklin, Stevenson and Bentley) would be in that potential Northwest Suburban league.

In summing up his options, Garver said:

"IT DOES not appear, based on the superintendent's investigation, that there is overwhelming support among other schools for the development of a new activities league."

"At best, we were able to identify only four schools that would definitely consider such a venture at this point. Four teams are an insufficient number to merit the creation of a new league."

Of the options, "the one that would seem to make the greatest sense is the one that suggests that the four teams in question approach the Northwest Suburban League and ask for its expansion into a two-division league."

That would "yield considerable benefits for there would be great flexibility in the scheduling of other activities, such as girls' athletics, forensics, debate and others."

But Garver admitted that there are some serious problems concerning the possible expansion.

The superintendent's report included comments from other school districts near Livonia and how they feel about changing league memberships. Wayne-Westland district, Farmington and Garden City officials in-

dicated they are happy with their present leagues although Garden City and Farmington would at least listen to any future proposals.

Redford Union's superintendent said he wants a new league formed, adding that the district isn't "particularly pleased" with the current membership in the Suburban Eight League and is considering an invitation to join Northwest Suburban.

Plymouth's superintendent said he wants a new league for Plymouth, Salem High and wants the school to play others closer to Plymouth, although he didn't want the two Plymouth high schools in the same league.

THE ISSUE was raised last month by Dads' Club officials from Stevenson and Bentley who wanted their schools playing teams in adjacent districts.

They said the advantages would be increased gate revenues since student and adult attendance would go up when the fans don't have to travel long distances to attend road games.

The closer-to-home league alignment also would help boost school spirit among teams and fans, they said.

But they admitted a long-standing practice of not having two Livonia schools in the same league would have to be at least considered for a change to form a new league.

At present, Stevenson travels as far as Waterford and Pontiac to compete in the Inter-Lakes League.

Bentley is in the Suburban Eight and plays Trenton, Allen Park and Belleville.

Churchill, although it plays Waterford, Mott and Franklin have expressed satisfaction with their league alignments.

Franklin's opponents are all in adjacent districts and present no distance problems.

Over 30 hockey results

Northland Heating Company staggered but remained unbeaten in the Southfield Over 30 Hockey League.

Northland established a 4-1 lead after two periods in its game with Star Lincoln-Mercury last Thursday. But then Star came back with three goals in the third period to make it close. Northland had to add two more goals in the final stanza to win. Russ Stabile and Ray Brunett each scored two goals for the winners. Marc Rivkin provided the other tally. Bill Boyd scored a pair of goals for Star, while Nick Mancinelli and Jim LePine each scored one. The victory lifted Northland to 6-1. Star fell to 2-3.


Concourse Camera maintained its hold on second place with a 7-0 victory over Southfield Holiday Inn. Goalie Ken Feldman turned in his first shutout of the season. Paul Kezle scored two goals, and teammates Pete Johnson, Lee Fitzpatrick, Bob Young and Ray Tremblay each scored one.

Suburban Sports Center bombed Sawyer-Fuller Funeral Home, 8-2, thanks to a three-goal hat trick by Nick Lee and a two-goal effort by Bill Ellis. Milt Boyer, Bill Senk and Howard Ruffi each scored one. Bob Kiofuk and Gary Bean scored Sawyer's goals.

Spartan Concrete overcame a 1-0 deficit and went on to beat Arley's Firestone, 3-1. Arley's took a brief lead in the first period when Barry Pearl tallied. But Spartan came roaring back with goals by John O'Dell, Chuck Drake and Jack Porter to seal the victory.

Over 30 Standings

	W	L	T
Northland Heating	6	0	3
Concourse Camera	5	1	1
Suburban Sports Center	4	2	1
Spartan Concrete	2	2	3
Sawyer-Fuller	2	2	3
Star Lincoln-Mercury	2	3	3
Southfield Holiday Inn	1	6	0
Arley's Firestone	0	7	0



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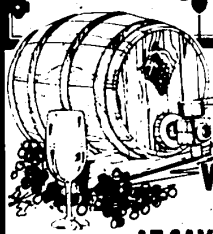
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