

District combats financial woes

A school system is only as good as the interest it generates in the programs it provides.

As the Farmington School District experiences more unusual times, its superintendent perceives the district making significant educational progress in light of financial and demographic problems.

In Lewis Schulman's status report of the district which is presented to the board of education last week, the superintendent reviewed the district's overall condition. The following are several of his observations:

• Since the student population at East Junior High each industrial education laboratory in the district has been inspected by the city electrical inspectors, Sunk Engineering of Torr also has subjected East and all reported violations have been corrected, Schulman said. Flammable storage cabinets and safety cans are in the process of being ordered for appropriate industrial education and science laboratories. Guards either have been installed or ordered for all equipment.

• The district's industrial education staff held an in-service training session with a state labor department official in April and plans for additional safety orientation programs are scheduled for September.

• A safety handbook for staff and students will be finalized and distributed this fall.

• According to the superintendent, the district has developed one of the most comprehensive special education programs in the state. He continues to serve as an example of providing high quality programs and demonstrate that special education and general education can operate as a well integrated team. District officials wrote in their report to the board.

• The district saved a substantial amount of money by phasing out its four dual education classes at Wood Creek Elementary School. By mutual agreement with the Oakland County Intermediate School District, the ten students from this program will be reassigned to other intermediate programs in the district.

• Resource rooms are now available in every school building and are being utilized to their fullest by children who are handicapped but who do not require segregated programs.

• Three classrooms for elementary trainable mentally impaired students at Fairview have been transferred to Kenbrook Elementary. Excess space at Kenbrook will relieve the overcrowding at Fairview.

• Preschool and elementary programs operate in the following areas and are continually expanding. Severely mentally impaired, trainable speech deaf and orthopedic and learning disabled.

• New equipment and furnishings were purchased this year and several building modifications and remodeling jobs were done at Boy's Republic. Building improvements and purchasing of educational equipment will continue next year to strengthen the program with emphasis during 1979-80 on the residual educational area. Another staff member has been added at the facility.

• Cooperative agreements were signed again with the Vocational Rehabilitation Services to provide stipends and work training for all eligible senior high handicapped students. This program is one of the more successful secondary endeavors because it provides a variety of vocational opportunities, varying from special needs programs to community job placement and state vocational training schools.

• Due to the increase in the cost of summer programming, tuition was raised to \$80 per student with the state funding 75 percent of the bill as long as funds are available.

• The media centers being constructed at Forest and Beechview Elementary Schools are progressing on schedule. It is anticipated that they will be completed by late August. Chiversdale Elementary and special education administration offices have returned to their building after being housed elsewhere during construction.

• Former students and parents of Fair-

ington Junior High, as well as those students living in areas affected by boundary changes, have been notified of new attendance areas and orientation plans are being implemented.

• The disposition of supplies, furniture and equipment from Farmington Junior High has been completed with several schools in the district being allocated the items based on need and additional students.

• The Academically Talented Program will continue next year at the same level as last year as six schools will provide the services. The funds provided for these class-

es will be used to fund a full pilot program at Warner Junior High next year.

• It will cost \$13,000 to meet the district's goal for women's sports. Last year the district funded five sports for women and ten sports for men at the high school level and five sports for boys and one for girls at the junior high level. The recommended program for women this year is seven sports at the high school level and three at the junior high level. Adding girls' basketball and track at Farmington High and volleyball at the junior high schools cost approximately \$4,000. These funds were not included in the subsidy fund of \$25,000 last year.

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