

Livonia Group Supports Actions Of School Board

EDITOR:

Recently many of us attended the School Board meeting at Stevenson High School. We left there with a feeling of distress and disbelief that such a meeting really had taken place in Livonia. That feeling was certainly related to our years of commitment to the children of Livonia.

While working for many years (some of us before 1950) in our school system we have had an opportunity to know nearly all of the Boards of Education that have served this community. Not a single one of them has been more dedicated to achieving good education for the children of Livonia than the one presently serving you. And yet at Stevenson that night a number of people were wildly applauded for proposing the recall of this excellent Board of Education. This is certainly an unbelievable situation.

The key question is, of course, not whether there is a group sufficiently organized to effect the recall of this Board of Education. That question is secondary to the question of which action is in the best interest of all of the children of Livonia.

In Livonia, as in many other places, the cost of programs which should be provided for students exceeds the money available. So the basic question becomes, "How should the available dollars be spent?" Faced with those facts of life and after examining all aspects of the school program in minute detail, your Board of Education, assisted by professional employees, arrived at the solution with which schools were opened this fall.

They did not want to place any students on half days. In their judgment, placing a limited number of students on half days for one year was a better choice than giving all students a whittled shell of a program for a much longer period of time—perhaps the balance of their school career.

We believe that that was a wise decision and that your Board of Education should be applauded for having the courage to make it. The choice was a bitter one but it was carefully thought out by local school planners and it is very likely that most of the present critics of the Board

would arrive at a similar decision if they were to look at all of the facts as the Board has done.

We would also like to have all students on full days but we believe that temporarily placing some students on half days will help to preserve a quality education program for all students in Livonia.

The people who planned this year's program are the same people who developed this school system from which thousands of students have proceeded successfully into careers. They did this while managing a building expansion program unequalled in this state. They created a school system which led many people to seek residence here.

Now it seems the people of Livonia are being asked to accept the counsel of a group of people who do not have this background on which to lean. After a very brief glance, this group says, "Half days are not in the best interest of our children. The people who have guided your school system to its present level are no longer capable. Listen to us."

Cool heads have generally prevailed in Livonia and we find it difficult to believe that the people who really care are ready to risk the scrapping of their school system. That action seems like abandoning your physician for a witch doctor. You may do that as a very last resort but not as long as the physician offers a program for curing the disease.

Since we have worked for Livonia schools for many years, we feel a responsibility to state an opinion on this matter publicly and clearly. In our opinion, your Board of Education is following a course which is in the best interest of the school system and will give every student in that school system the best education under the circumstances.

The proposals of these critics could lead to a deterioration of the Livonia school system and an inferior education for all students for a long time to come. We do not generally involve ourselves in debates such as the one occurring now because it is the kind of decision which

READERS' FORUM

Letters must be limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed, with the writer's address. Names will be withheld only at the writer's request and for good cause. Please type or write plainly. The editor reserves the right to reject unsuitable letters.

must be made finally by the people of the district and not the professional educator.

However, the impact of this debate is so critical to your schools that we cannot in good professional conscience remain silent. In our opinion, the action being proposed by the critics of your Board of Education is not in the best interest of your children and could lead to a chain of events which could destroy most of the good features of your school program.

David Amernick, John Anderson, Kenneth Cogswell, Floyd Collinsworth, Arlie Fairman, Jack Hudnut, Robert Kellogg, Richard Krimkow, William Kumbler, Edwin LaDuke, William McMurtrey, James Otto, Eldon Price, Donald Rotrock, William Warren and Charles Zoet.

Academics First, Skip The Extras

EDITOR:

We have been taxpayers residents of this area since 1953. We have voted during millage requests favorably. We feel that our representatives, the school board, should be aware that the taxpayers parents and other citizens were trying to make it very clear to your school board by not voting for the last millage request, that we need a change in attitude of the extras which our school system has supplied in previous years.

We have graduated one child from our school system and another to be graduated this year. So we have had various experience with these extras. We also have one child in the fifth grade and another in the second grade, so we are and will continue to be directly affected by half-day sessions. We

sincerely believe these children should be receiving first and foremost an academic education, then, if feasible, extras such as art, music and etc. When our family expenses exceed our income we cut all extras, such as entertainment (school plays), art courses, swimming, music lessons. These are bonuses, not necessity, until we can afford to do this type of activity. As our city newspaper do a service for the taxpayers: publish a form for at least two weeks asking for suggestions on what extras taxpayers want eliminated from our school system. These could be submitted to our school board after you had made a previous tally of these various suggestions for publishing for the taxpayers. Another millage will not pass without some definite action by the board.

PROGRESSIVE TAXPAYER LIVONIA

Joint Effort Could Solve School Dilemma

EDITOR:

Regarding our Livonia Public Schools, our community needs reconciliation, not further polarization.

The problems of our schools are many and serious, but let's not lose our perspective. In all of our community action, inter-action and counter-action, please let's keep in mind that our total purpose should be the good education of our children at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

We should further recognize and appreciate that next to father-mother-family, the greatest influences on our children are our teachers, whom we must encourage and constructively

screamed his brakes. He was going so fast, he took to the shoulder of the road to keep from hitting the car that stopped for the bus.

Last year more than half the cars passed the school bus when flashing red lights were on. We got one license number when my son had to jump back to keep from getting hit.

We called the police and they couldn't do anything because they didn't see it happen.

So I am making an appeal to you drivers, that "School's open, so the buses are running again."

Just at our house alone on Newburgh Rd., the buses stop at 7:03 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. PLEASE, drivers, watch the school buses so you can stop in time as I have six children in school and three of them of half days and they have to cross the road.

MRS. PATRICK FEGAN 7955 Newburgh Westland

Joint Effort Could Solve School Dilemma

EDITOR:

Regarding our Livonia Public Schools, our community needs reconciliation, not further polarization.

The problems of our schools are many and serious, but let's not lose our perspective. In all of our community action, inter-action and counter-action, please let's keep in mind that our total purpose should be the good education of our children at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer.

We should further recognize and appreciate that next to father-mother-family, the greatest influences on our children are our teachers, whom we must encourage and constructively

support. As for lack of communications . . . Board to Citizens, etc. There is available a proper vehicle to get constructive messages to the community. The Local Parent Teacher Associations.

The board and administration has and can continue to present the issues and reasons for their actions to the PTA. This should accomplish two good purposes: proper dissemination of information and to upgrade the role of the PTA. We citizens have to work at this, too.

Regarding the lack of money (half days). Whether we agree or not, the decision for half days was made with the intent of keeping intact the nucleus of a fine overall staff for one year while the state legislature did its job on educational fiscal reform.

I would like to offer two possible solutions to this year's half-day dilemma. (1) Citizens could contribute to a "school full day fund" to help make up part of the money necessary for full days as soon as possible. (2) The Livonia Education Association, without losing any negotiated contractual rights, but rather by showing true community concern and leadership, could volunteer to raise the pupil-teacher ratio for this year and help get our children back on full days.

These may appear to be bold or drastic possibilities. They are. But the times call for such.

Please bear in mind the great good that could be accomplished in our community by trying to solve our problems by working together: parents-taxpayers-board - administration - teachers-students, all . . . citizens. I humbly submit that we are, totally, a community of people. We need reconciliation, not further polarization.

TED HENGESBAUGH

Authorities Should Enforce Full Days

EDITOR:

This correspondence is regarding the action of the Livonia Board of Education and the wishes of the citizens of Livonia.

Last year our citizens of this city disapproved by vote, an increase in school mileage. This school year the school board has economized by placing four grades on three-hour school days. Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Kaufman issued an opinion and order that Livonia school children be placed on full day school. The school board has voted to appeal the

ruling and while doing so keep the children in the four grades on partial days.

This action is contrary to the order and discriminatory to the children in the four grades. I say this because the children in the four grades on partial days are deprived of activities they normally would have and also a full education relative to hours of instruction. I appeal to the proper authority to order the school board to comply and immediately place all children on full day scheduling and provide equal opportunity and education.

CHARLES R. DOWNES 19435 Lagan Livonia

Talented?

study Art.

The Art School of the Society of

Arts and Crafts

245 East Kirby 872-3118
Detroit 48202 / Established 1926

<input type="checkbox"/> Professional Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Fashion	<input type="checkbox"/> Advertising Design
<input type="checkbox"/> VA Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Metalcraft
<input type="checkbox"/> Catalog	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/> Ceramics and Jewelry
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Classes for Children	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Illustration

Register now for Fall Term
offering B.F.A. Degree in Industrial Design
Day • Evening • Saturday Classes

No Tricks. BUT WE BALANCE YOUR HEATING OIL BUDGET.

Sometimes, you use more fuel, like in December. Sometimes, you use less fuel, like in May. How can you possibly balance your heating oil budget?

Discipline. Our Mobil Heating Oil Budget Plan stretches your payments evenly. Over many months. What you pay in May, you pay in December. There's no service charge. And no carrying charge. All you pay for is clean, dependable Mobil Heating Oil. We provide the discipline. Free.

Mobil
heating oil

FUEL, INC.

Fuel Oil - Oil Burner Service

316 N. CENTER STREET
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN 48167

349-3350

in Livonia

grand opening

5 LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTERS

SERVING YOUR COMPLETE READING NEEDS!

Bibliophiles . . . permit us to introduce ourselves! We're the new 'Little Professor' Book Centers . . . and we're the most exciting new chapter in bookstore history.

Books and reading materials of every type are our 'thing'. Whatever your interest we have the reading material to match. We invite you to come browse through our complete selections of paperbacks, hard covers, magazines, out of town newspapers, school titles, study guides, college outline series, foreign magazines, children's books and financial publications. We have Michigan's most complete selections of published works for every need, every taste and every age. (P.S.) And what we don't have we'll be happy to special order for you!

There's a convenient center located near you!

- 33231 Plymouth, Sheldon Center, Livonia
- 23021 Coolidge at 9 Mile, Oak Park
- 16837 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe City
- 22194 Michigan Ave., West Dearborn
- 189 South Woodward, Birmingham

ALL CENTERS OPEN 7 DAYS

Another in Plymouth Township opening soon

LITTLE PROFESSOR BOOK CENTER

ALL DEDICATED MEMBERS OF A FAMILY OF NATIONWIDE FRANCHISE BOOK CENTER