

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 anger 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 your school system we have had an opportunity to know nearly all of the Boards of Education that have been in existence in Livonia. 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 group of people were wildly applauded for proposing the recall of this school Board of Education. This is certainly an unbelievable situation.

The key questions, 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 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 the need to evaluate all aspects of the school program in 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 all students on half days would be in the best interest of the children. The people who have guided your school system to its present level are no longer capable of doing so.

Cool hands have generally

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 in temporarily placing students on half days will help to preserve a quality education in Livonia.

The people who planned this year's program are the same people who developed this school system from which many students have proceeded to successful careers. They created a school system that is second to none in its excellence throughout the state and beyond. They did this while managing a building expansion program unequalled in this state. Many people are seeking 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 of doing so.

David Amerman, John Anderson, Kenneth Cogswell, Floyd Collinsworth, Arlie Fairman, Jack Hudmet, Robert Kellogg, Richard Kremek, William Kunkel, Edwin LaDuke, William McMurtry, James Otto, Eldon Price, Donald Rotrock, William Warren and Charles Zott.

Academics First, Skip The Extras

EDITOR:

We have been taxpaying residents of Livonia since 1958. We have voted during millage renewals favorably. We feel that our representatives, the school board, should be aware that the taxpaying parents and other citizens were trying to make it very clear to our school board by not voting for the last millage request, that we need a change in attitude of the citizens which our school system has supplied in previous years.

The proposals of these critics could lead to a deterioration of the Livonia school system and the loss of 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.

screched 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 the number one when my son had to step 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 stop 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 3:00 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
7825 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 look over 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 teachers and parents, the greatest influence 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 Association.

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 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 disagree with the half days was made with the intent of keeping intact the intent 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 to 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 sincerely submit that we must be a community of people. We need reconciliation, not further polarization.

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Authorities Should Enforce Full Days

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This action is contrary to the order and direction given 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.

Last year our citizens of this city disapproved by vote, an increase in school millage. This school year the school board

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