

# Teacher union leader supports secret contract

Elementary students in the Walled Lake School District are expected to have a choice of menu items when they line up in the cafeteria at the start of the 1979-80 school year.

The Walled Lake school board voted Jan. 8 to spend approximately \$29,000 for a "trayveyor" machine which will provide elementary students with a selection of menu items next year.

The Walled Lake district encompasses the western portion of West Bloomfield and the northwest section of Farmington Hills.

A trayveyor is a conveyor which will permit the district to prepare satellite lunches in an assembly line manner with greater productivity and flexibility than is presently available with existing equipment, according to Deputy

Supt. Rolland Langerman. Langerman cited several reasons for the board to approve the purchase of the trayveyor.

Additionally, he asserted, the new machine will produce 35-55 meals per minute in comparison with the 20-25 meals per minute produced by the existing system.

Langerman reported that the Food Service Department would be able to finance the purchase of the trayveyor without having to borrow from the general fund. Sale of existing equipment would bring in some \$3,000 and an annual savings in labor costs of \$6,000 is also anticipated.

The remainder of the cost would come from the higher rate of federal reimbursement realized by the district this year and the anticipated increase in elementary participation.

At the top of the list was the ability to produce multiple choice menus for elementary students. Langerman said this cannot be done presently because the wrapping is aluminum and obscures the food from view. The new machine will mechanically wrap the containers with a transparent wrap, allowing students to see the food inside the container.

Langerman also suggested the machine would promote increased participation in the school's lunch program.

"WE HAVE HAD two experiences with a clear pack submarine sandwich," said the deputy superintendent. The response from students and staff was very favorable and "our count on these two occasions increased our average daily participation rate by 980 to 1,400 additional lunches."

Langerman stated further that purchase of the trayveyor would save la-

## Satellite lunches

## Students get wider choice of meals

The Walled Lake Board of Education has received a note of support from what might be considered an unexpected source.

Nancy van Leeuwen, president of the Walled Lake Education Association (WLEA), told the school board last Monday that she supported its decision

not to make the contract of Superintendent Don Sheldon a part of the public record.

Ms. van Leeuwen said she "would like to commend the board for its unanimous defeat of a motion" Dec. 11 to make the superintendent's contract public.

"As president of the Walled Lake Education Association, I would expect the board to make a similar decision in regard to a teacher's contract," she said. "I would therefore not be a party to the board's denying the superintendent the same respect."

"If such information is indeed a public document, I cannot quarrel with the individual citizen's right to view or have access to such a document," she stated.

"The Association has not been involved in any way in the request to make the superintendent's contract a public document."

THE CONTROVERSY surfaced when the school administration rejected several requests for copies of the superintendent's contract on the basis that release of the document was an unwarranted public invasion, and would be an infringement on the superintendent's right to privacy.

Two of these requests were submitted by Arthur Stokus and Gerald Plas.

Both individuals are teachers in the Walled Lake School District, residents of the Walled Lake School District, and active members of the WLEA.

Both Stokus and Plas submitted the requests as residents of the school district, not as representatives of the WLEA. The statement issued by Ms. van Leeuwen at the board meeting was designed to clarify the distinction.

The decision by administrators not to reveal the superintendent's contract was supported by the school board at its Dec. 11 session.

Board Attorney Dennis Pollard said Sheldon had entered into the contract prior to adoption of the Freedom of Information Act and with an expectation of confidentiality.

Pollard said the law would not supersede the contract with its expectation of confidentiality, and suggested that the board could be liable for damages from Sheldon if terms of the contract were released.

The decision not to make the contract a matter of public record was endorsed unanimously by the school board.

## School lunch prices raised

It will cost pupils more to buy lunch in the Clarenceville School District beginning Jan. 29.

The school board Thursday approved a 30 per cent increase which will raise prices from 50 cents to 65 cents for elementary students, 55 cents to 70 cents for secondary students, and 50 cents to \$1.15 for adults.

Renes Donaldson, food service supervisor, told the board in making her request for a price hike, that the lunch program has a \$5,200 deficit.

"With skyrocketing food prices, up more than 25 per cent from November of 1977 to November 1978, and labor costs up eight per cent, it is impossible to keep our lunch program operating without a deficit," she said.



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