

Farmington Observer

Successor to the Farmington Enterprise

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oral quarrel

Teacher merit pay? Yes and no

This week's Oral Quarrel asked readers how they felt about teachers being paid on a merit system. Following are the answers:

If they don't do a good job, instead of getting merit pay, they should get a reduction. It should be based on punishment system not reward system because they are being paid for the hours spend there.

I think teachers should have merit pay just like any other business. Why should teachers be exempt? I believe if they had merit pay they would be more apt to have the initiative to do a good job.

Yes, I do believe that teachers should have merit pay. The trouble is with six pay scales, it doesn't provide an incentive for someone to go the extra yard or step but instead your worst worker, your most incompetent one, is usually the one who sets the pace. That is why I believe in the merit pay system.

Why not cut the pay of the incompetent teachers instead.

I believe that there are some teachers that do deserve merit pay. However, many burned-out teachers in the Farmington district not only don't deserve merit pay, they don't deserve any pay. It's a sad state of affairs that our district is so far behind so many others, although our teachers are so well paid to begin with.

I believe teachers should have merit pay. I believe it is an incentive for teachers to improve their work. Although I personally do not have a complaint about teachers in the public area but certainly it would work out in areas who do need help in improving the quality of teaching.

Teachers should get merit pay raises because seniority and degrees alone are no guarantee that a teacher is proficient. They must take a performance test themselves each year to see if they are keeping abreast in their field of teaching. In this way we will have quality teachers.

Merit pay is the only way to help separate those teachers who belong in the classroom from those who should have been canned years ago. We have far too many incompetent people walking up to the pay window every Friday and getting the same pay as those who are doing the job. I speak from 16 years of experience as a teacher.

I firmly believe that teachers should receive merit pay because I feel this will improve the quality of education that our children are receiving. If teachers have the incentive to teach better then I firmly believe that they will.

I vote no for merit pay. I like the teacher who finishes all the material in that given grade and a little more. Some of my neighbors and friends prefer teachers who have a lot of fun and games and loads and

loads of field trips and the children really learn very little.

I do not think they deserve merit pay. I think everybody should be doing the very best of their ability for whatever pay they sign for.

If they would take teacher tenure away so that teachers had to prove themselves and get some competition into teaching so that they would put out their best instead of knowing from year to year that they would be rehired, we would not have to give merit pay. I do not agree. Let's get these teachers on the ball so that they go out there and do their very best they can.

If competent teachers are being hired for whatever pay scale is available then their own integrity ought to merit whatever pay they receive. There could be some sort of additional award given for exceptional teachers but if one agrees to be hired at a certain rate then one ought to do the best job they can.

discover Michigan

Bjill Stockwell

DID YOU KNOW?

A great many Michigan cities and towns have the same names as cities and towns in other states, but there is believed to be only one Ann Arbor in the world. The town was started by John Allen, a Virginian, and Elished Rumsey, a New Yorker, who registered their claim in New Detroit for \$1.25 per acre. They named the town after their wives, each of whom was named Ann.

The village of Chelsea, with a population of only 3,700, has six different educational centers nearby. The giant University of Michigan is at nearby Ann Arbor and Eastern Michigan University and Cleary Business College are in Ypsilanti. Washtenaw Community College, Jackson Community College and Concordia Lutheran College are also near at hand.

Not learned in school

Recalling life's best lessons

NOT ALL the lessons that The Stroller learned as he traveled along life's highway are those he was taught in school.

Of times those that have proved most helpful were those that were taught at his mother's knee or in quiet chats with his father.

The Stroller, who had to leave school after attending attending high school only three months, often recalled the teachings of his mother as he moved along in the passing years.

One of the most valuable lessons she taught him came shortly after his father passed away.

WE HAD been a tight-knit little family and now the leader was gone and Mother faced the gigantic problem of carrying on without him.

On this particular morning, she called the children into the little kitchen and, sitting at the table, she spoke with bit of a choked voice:

"You children must make up your minds now that you can't have what other children have." Then, she said, "But there can be a lot of enjoyment in the world if you only make the most of what you've got."

She waited a few seconds, then said that we should never look over the fence to see what other folks have, never be jealous and never pity ourselves for the position we found ourselves in. And things will work out alright, she said.

THOSE WERE wise words and The Stroller has followed them through the years. And he seems to have done quite well doing so.

And oftentimes the wise teachings of his father come to mind. In fact, it was his father who gave The Stroller the best lesson he had to help him in the business world.



the stroller
W.W.
Edgar

It came one night in early summer when the major league baseball season had just started. This was before we had radio or television. In our little lunch counter, we received the baseball scores by telephone and then posted them on a blackboard for our customers to see.

It was common practice then for the men of the town to take a walk downtown to get the scores and to sit at the counter enjoying a piece of pie and a glass of milk.

ONE EVENING The Stroller wrote the scores down on the blackboard and put the board just outside where all the world could see. Quick as a flash father came to the door, grabbed the blackboard and took it inside. He said: "We'll never sell any pie or milk with the scores hanging outside." It was a wise lesson and the blackboard never was placed outside again.

On another occasion The

Stroller's father sent him alone to the county fair a few miles away in the city. He was given full instructions as to where to get the streetcar for the return ride home and the time he was expected.

After an enjoyable day at the fair, he took the streetcar at the appointed time and returned just as he was told.

He sat down with his father to tell him about the big day, handed him all the "gifts" he had received at the various stands and recounted the fun he had all through the day.

WHEN HE had finished talking, father asked, "What did you bring home for your sisters? Don't tell me you are going to be a selfish boy."

The Stroller swallowed hard and almost cried for he had nothing for his sisters.

But he learned a lesson. Later in life, in any trip he ever took he made sure he would have a gift of some kind for his sisters. And later in life, he never forgot his wife who was sitting at home.

These are the kind of lessons one isn't taught in school and, oftentimes, they are the most important in life.

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