

District's substitute employees get pay hike

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Most of the Farmington School District's temporary employees will see a 5.5 percent increase in their paychecks in 1985-86.

Farmington Board of Education members unanimously approved salary increases for substitute and part-

time employees last week in line with raises earlier granted the district's permanent employees.

"In general we tried to be consistent with district settlements this year," said Michael Flanagan, assistant superintendent of finance.

In 1984-85, the district used 180 non-union employees to fill-in temporarily

for permanent full-time union employees, Flanagan said. Most of the temporary workers substitute for permanent employees who are absent.

Temporary employees who will receive a salary increase include custodians, truck drivers, secretaries and aides, noon aides and parking lot attendants. The increased hourly wages for employees who fill in for perma-

nent employees range from \$3.55 for print shop helpers to \$8.85 for noon-time aides.

THE SALARY increases don't apply to substitute teachers. Salary increases for this group will be discussed at the school board's next regular meeting, Tuesday, Aug. 20.

What the increases for temporary

workers will cost the district is uncertain because officials don't know how many employees will be needed throughout the year, Flanagan said. The money used to pay the temporary employees is included under the salary portions of budgets for specific departments such as custodial or food service, he said.

Temporary food service helpers and bus drivers didn't receive a raise this

year because their hourly wage is already close to the union wage for those positions, Flanagan said.

"It would take substitute employees and put them in a rate higher than the bargaining unit employees," he said. "It would be embarrassing to have full-time employees making less than substitute employees."

THE PERCENT increase for temporary employees is comparable to an increase recently ratified in a revised agreement between the school district and support personnel, Flanagan said.

Under the district's agreement with the Michigan Educational Support Personnel Association, the approximately 220 custodial, maintenance and cafeteria workers will receive a 5.5 percent increase in 1985-86. The increases approved in the revised agreement will cost the district approximately \$150,000, Flanagan said.

Levin tells Japanese to play by rules

By Judith Doner Berns
staff writer

Japan isn't playing fair and the United States isn't going to take it anymore. That's the message Sander Levin and five other members of the U.S. House of Representatives from the Midwest and northeast delivered during a June 28 to July 7 trip to Tokyo and environs.

The bipartisan sextet (four Democrats and two Republicans) threatened that Congress will enact trade barriers unless Japan tears down its wall against U.S. imports and voluntarily restricts its own imports.

"We open our markets to them," Levin said. "They close theirs to us."

The delegation met with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, the head of Japan's largest corporations, and representatives of science, education and agriculture in a whirlwind tour.

LEVIN, WHO REPRESENTS the 17th Congressional District, which includes Southfield and Redford Township, also met privately with officials from each of Japan's largest automobile companies. "Coincidentally, each has an office in the 17th District," he said.

"We're not going to take it any longer. We want some fair play here," Levin said last week, from his 11th floor office in Southfield overlooking both the Lodge and Southfield expressways. "Do we want to have only cars from Germany, Japan and Great Britain on these roads?"

Although the cultural differences he saw firsthand increased his realization of the difficulties involved, he says the trip had impact.

"They heard blunter talk. I think they take us now more seriously," Differences between the two coun-

tries extend past tariffs and manufacturing operations to the very nature of the two cultures, according to Levin.

"TOKYO IS A city for business," he described. "It's like Southfield — multiplied a thousand times. Work is the center of the Japanese life, even more than the family."

"They've reduced their tariffs. But the main barriers to Japan are the practices. They put up endless hoops of varying size before you can sell over there."

Some of the traditions and practices can be changed, but some can't, Levin realizes. "We can say change; we can't say exactly how they do it. But if they don't meet our objectives, we're going to take action."

The delegation's message was also aimed at cars at home — both the American people's and President

Reagan's.

The American people, who have devalued Japanese products for their quality and price, must now be ready to think in the long run, Levin says.

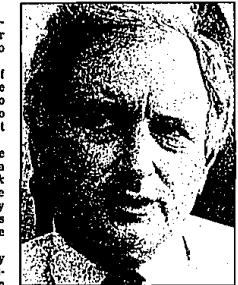
"There's the good right in front of them and the general good — people see that more and more. It's my job to help describe vividly that linkage — to anticipate the problems before we get totally out of hand."

AT TOWN MEETINGS he holds, he finds his constituents see America slipping dramatically. "They ask 'Whatever happened to made in the U.S.A? They want to be able to buy American-made products 10 years from now. It's true throughout the (17th) district.'"

The car-dependent Detroit area may have received the "buy America" message before much of the country, Levin said, but now other areas are getting the word.

Still, Americans are ahead of the president, Levin said, whom he and others are urging to exert leadership to reduce the trade deficit.

The strong ties between Japanese government and business can't and shouldn't be duplicated in the United



Rep. Sander Levin

States, Levin said. "They have control, we have chaos. We need something in between."

"America has to pull itself together. We have to have a policy. Congress can make the laws, but it's how the administration implements them."



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