

# Walled Lake discipline policy toughened

By LeAnne Rogers  
special writer

There's good news and bad news for Walled Lake students who have been participating in the district's in-school suspension program.

The good news is that the board of education voted last week to discontinue the program which assigned disciplined secondary students to a special classroom at Walled Lake Central High School. Participating students who

were surveyed expressed a hearty dislike for the program.

But the bad news is suspended students will now have to serve their time on Saturday mornings under the new program established by the board.

Beginning Tuesday, Oct. 23, suspended students will serve their detentions from 8 a.m. until noon Saturdays. High school students will serve their time at their home schools. During the first semester, junior high school students will serve detentions at Walled Lake Junior

High School and during the second semester at Smart Junior High School.

THE SATURDAY program will take care of several concerns expressed about the weekday suspension program. Junior high school students will no longer be transported with and share classrooms with older high school students. Senior high school students will serve their detentions at their home schools instead of at a central location as has been the case.

Another concern about the previous detention program was the cost for transporting students from their home schools to the school where the disciplinary classes were held. Under the Saturday detention program parents would be responsible for transporting the students.

District officials estimated the Saturday program would save the district \$42,145 compared to the current program. One teacher and one aide would be assigned to each school for four hours per week instead of the current full-time staff at one classroom.

Other advantages to the program cited by the administrative staff were that parents would share the responsibility for discipline. Also students would so dislike the Saturday detentions that it would provide a greater deterrent to minor student conduct code violations.

DISCIPLINED STUDENTS would be required to bring their own homework to be done during their detention. A one-day suspension would be met by one day served in Saturday detention and truant from the Saturday program would be suspended from regular classes for five days.

We have not heard of this type of program in our immediate area but (superintendent) Dr. (Lee) Bartman has used this program in two other districts," said Bonnie Venzke, board president.

"He maintains this will work. We don't know yet, but the board is willing to support him in this."

The board authorized the program with the stipulation that the Saturday detentions be evaluated by teachers, parents and students after the current school year ends.

VENZKE SAID she was not yet sure what action would be taken regarding the current suspension class instructor since that class would no longer be needed.

As in the past, students won't be assigned more than twice per semester to the new detention program, although it will allow more students to be processed. The single classroom system could handle only 20 students from the entire district causing delays in students completing their detention.

## Schools seeking millage renewal

A special election to renew 14 mills in expiring operating millage has been set for Monday, Dec. 9, by the Walled Lake Board of Education.

The district's general operating millage is currently 38.54 mills of which 9.54 mills is fixed millage. The remaining 29 mills is voted operating millage. The district also levies .8816 mills for four debt retirements.

The expiring millage was originally approved by voters in two parts. Ten mills was authorized in 1976 and another 4 mills was approved in 1981. One mill had been earmarked for building and site improvements but that designation has been removed for the renewal question at the recommendation of Superintendent Lee Bartman.

"It is always restrictive to earmark millage money and the general attitude Dr. Bartman has found is that it is more feasible to pass millage without restrictions," said board president Bonnie Venzke.

The district will have two levies totaling 15 mills expiring in 1987. The board appointed Vocational Education Director Lester Carlson as the millage election chairman.

"This is a legal requirement for the board to authorize someone to handle the election-related matters," Bartman said. "This is not a matter of having someone running an election campaign."

approval. "Even when voters were turning down millage increases they were supporting renewals," she said.

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## Concert slated

The Wayne State University music department will sponsor Wind and Percussion Ensembles in concert at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 in the Community Arts Auditorium on the Detroit campus.

The concert will feature the Percussion Ensemble, directed by Salvatore Rabbio, Farmington Hills; the Bassoon Quartet, directed by Paul Ganson, Dearborn; and the Clarinet Quartet, directed by Paul Schaller, Birmingham.

All three directors are affiliated performance faculty members and performers in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

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