

Schools tackle overcrowding

The Farmington Board of Education will hear proposals Tuesday night from a board-appointed citizens panel to alleviate elementary school overcrowding and equalize senior-high enrollment.

Trustees will also hear public comment on proposals and other ideas for alleviating an overcrowding problem at the west end of the district.

The seven-member panel will present reports on proposed boundary changes and on proposed changes in facility use that may affect students at the elementary, middle school and senior high levels. The "town meeting" begins at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Farmington High School Auditorium.

Shiawassee west of Orchard Lake Road.

Some of the options to be discussed include: building a new elementary on the district's west side, putting additions on elementary buildings, reopening Shiawassee Center as an elementary, and equalizing attendance at the high schools, especially Harrison where attendance is down because of no new housing development. Proposed attendance boundary changes are expected to generate intense discussion.

Last March, the district indicated that the district would increase at the elementarys and an enrollment decrease at Harrison High had reached crisis proportions, prompting the district-wide study last fall.

School censorship not likely

Continued from Page 1

The Missouri principal objected to the two articles and deleted the pages on which they appeared. Three journalism students sued the principal and other school officials, contending their freedom of speech had been violated.

Paul McMasters, national freedom of information chairman of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi, and deputy editor-in-chief of USA Today, is concerned about the ruling. "This case is particularly distressing because the articles involved were first-class, well-written stories on subjects of great interest to students — just the kind teachers should encourage good journalists to write," McMasters said.

THOUGH THE three Farmington area principals said they don't believe the high court ruling will have

any great effect on the way student stories are handled, they appreciate the basis on which the justices made their decision.

"I appreciate that understanding that we are in a separate world in a school," Cowan said. Potter offered a similar opinion. "There has been a distinction made. I'm glad there is a difference," he said, referring to the court's only restriction imposed on school authorities.

SCHOOL AUTHORITIES' censorship, according to the ruling, must be considered "reasonably related" to a legitimate educational objective. The justices ruled that the courts may intervene to protect student rights only when censorship "has no valid educational purpose."

Beyond that, Cowan said he doesn't believe the ruling is "earth shaking." The principals agree that more often than not, any potential

problems are worked out before there's a need to censor. "We have an advisor and an editorial board and they look over controversial topics and make the decision right there in the classroom. They do all the thinking relative to anything controversial," Potter said.

TOUCHY STORIES written by Harrison's "The Catalyst" are handled by the journalism adviser. "Once in a great while, the instructor might say, 'Take that story to the person you're writing about (to see if they'd like it),' " Graham said. "Generally speaking, we haven't had any problems."

Cowan said on some occasions, he has been asked to read stories before they are printed in North's paper, "The Northern Star."

"I like to give them free rein. She (the journalism adviser) shares the stories. I've made some sugges-

tions," Cowan said. COWAN SAID he views the student newspaper as not only a source of information for students, but "a forum where kids can communicate with one another. I hope it never comes to where you have to censor it."

The three high schools' student newspapers cover news about students, teachers, awards, sports, fund drives, travel and entertainment, including movie reviews. The papers also include columns, letters to the editor and advertising.

This month's "The Northern Star" includes part one of a series on a trip to the Soviet Union and a story about some North students' trip to Washington, D.C., to rally for the right of Soviet Jews and others to emigrate from their homeland.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Kemp-Robertson tops 18th tally

Continued from Page 1

delegates to the national presidential convention, first official slate in the nation in 1988. Statewide polls showed a majority for Bush, but everyone's victory will be clouded by the probability of credentials disputes.

BUSH SUPPORTERS moved to another room minutes before the convention adjourned. They charged that Haug and the Kemp-Robertson majority.

1) Trampled on elected party officeholders by not letting them vote on the chairmanship. Sen. Doug Cruce of Troy, Rep. Mat Danuskas of Lake Orion and county Commissioner John Calandro of Walpole Lake were particularly irate at the move. 2) Abused their majority by lump-

ing seven disputed sets of credentials into a single motion and cramming them through the report.

The Bush people were in the process of selecting Joe Knollenberg, former Oakland County chairman from Bloomfield Township, to chair their convention when the lights went out.

Welday shrugged that they were "bad losers."

The 165 state convention delegates from the Oakland-Macomb portion of the 18th District, plus seven delegates from Livingston County, will caucus Jan. 29 and pick their delegates to the Aug. 15 national convention in New Orleans.

The next day, all 1,805 state convention delegates will ratify those results and pick at-large delegates to the national convence.

THE TURNING point came at 1 a.m. Friday as the Kemp-Robertson majority voted 110-100 to seat four disputed precinct delegates and declare vacant three Troy precincts.

"This is the test vote," said Don Wolf, Farmington Hills councilman and Kemp operative.

Wolf then went to work nominating Kemp and Robertson supporters for a long list of vacant positions. Bush supporters put up rival candidates in about 15 precincts but were defeated each time.

"Donn has done a superb job," said Welday from the sidelines as the Kemp-Robertson margin gradually swelled to about 25 votes.

At 3 a.m., after 8½ hours, the precinct delegates broke into community caucuses to pick their state delegates. Wherever the Kemp-Robertson coalition had a majority, they crushed the Bush group.

HERE IS a list of Farmington area delegates and their affiliations available as of 5 a.m. Friday:

FARMINGTON, 4 — 3 for Bush; L. David Stader, Jack Gillary Jr., Bruce Knapp. One for Kemp; Stephen Bruce.

FARMINGTON HILLS, 19 — 9 for Robertson, 6 for Kemp, 4 for Bush. No list available.

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Brotherton House seat up for grabs

Continued from Page 1

Welday, a Farmington High graduate, is a political consultant who is deputy director of the Jack Kemp for President campaign in Michigan. Previously, he served as a manager in Oakland County Executive Daniel Murphy's 1986 re-

election campaign and as a political director of the Oakland County Republican Committee, 1984-86.

"I have a long background in politics," Welday said. "If I decide to get into the race, it will be to continue the good work Sandy Brotherton has done."

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