

Walled Lake schools study bond issue

By Carolyn DeMarco
staff writer

Members of a citizens' facility needs task force gave a convincing argument Wednesday night for a \$35 million bond issue to add to and renovate schools in the Walled Lake district.

- If approved, the plan will provide:
 - Two new elementary schools.
 - A new junior high.
 - A new administration building.
 - Bus garage and warehouse.
 - Conversion of Walled Lake Junior High School to a multiservice building.
 - Renovating Smart Junior High and both Western and Central high schools.

"We want to upgrade to a level equal to all facilities," said Jerry Frohlich, committee member from West Bloomfield and its administrator with North Detroit General Hospital.

"We want an equivalent school for every youngster in the district."

The committee gave a verbal presentation to the Walled Lake school board highlighting its written report and recommendations during a special meeting at Walled Lake Junior High School.

The presentation was delivered by Frohlich and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, an administrator of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital.

NEW HOUSING DATA indicates that an increase of as many as 4,000 new students could

flood the district by 1990 because of increased construction in the southeast section of the district including West Bloomfield and Farmington Hills, according to Kreutzer.

The number, Kreutzer said, is much higher than administration-supplied data showed.

"That's 50 percent. That seems very extreme," board secretary Robert Gallagher said.

"If we used those numbers we would build three or four new schools," Kreutzer answered, "but we've factored out. It's booming in the southeast section in the area of Maple, Oakley Park, Twin Beach and Wixom. Take whatever factor you want, there are going to be kids there. Even if it's only 2,000 there are problems."

"There is no luxury of space at any school," Frohlich said. "We have looked at housing starts and current conditions at 14 Mile, up two miles, and south two miles. There are continuous new students. If you do not plan today for needs in two years, in two years you'll be behind and it's too late. No one has a crystal ball. You have to look at what is coming in today."

Both spokesmen urged that a decision to act be made quickly. "We don't have the luxury of waiting," Kreutzer said.

The task force recommended turning the 65-year-old Walled Lake Junior High into a multiservice building housing community education, adult education and other special services such as teen mothers and Indian education under one roof. The

activities are now spread throughout the district.

"It would be less expensive than renovating as a junior high," Kreutzer said. A new, larger junior high will be needed for a larger population and increased educational needs, he said.

ALTHOUGH 14 additional elementary classrooms will be added throughout the district within the next year, the district is still 18 rooms shy of short-term expected increases, Kreutzer said. The task force recommended two new elementary schools "where student population dictates." (The district owns two sites within West Bloomfield Township. A 76-acre site is owned on Maple Road between West Bloomfield Fire Station No. 7 and Henry Ford Medical Center-West Bloomfield. A 40-acre parcel is at Halstead and Pontiac Trail, bordering on the Grand Trunk Railroad right-of-way.)

Speaking of a new bus facility, he said, "As far as we were concerned, this is definitely necessary. They are poor facilities, at best a shambles. The operation is sorely needed. We can't even wash buses there; there is no rack. It's (dirty buses) a poor advertisement of the district."

Improvements to Central High School should include additional parking, 10 additional classrooms and an addition to the cafeteria.

Western High School's pressing needs are new tennis courts, expansion of the media center and a football stadium, the committee found.

Brotheron praised

House Republican Leader Paul Hillebrands had high praise for state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotheron, R-Farmington, the 14-year veteran, who last week announced he will not seek re-election this fall.

"In addition to having great integrity, Sandy's unpretentious, down-to-earth approach to problems has made him a valuable asset to our caucus, and his absence will definitely be felt."

To the benefit of Michigan, he's also made some lasting contributions in the public health field, an area he specialized in for the last several years," Hillebrands said.

Republican floor leader Don Van Singel also lauded Brotheron. "Sandy has been an honest and dedicated legislator. He's a very conscientious man, who has always shown as much concern about the entire state as he has his district. His input will be missed both by our caucus and the entire House as well," Van Singel said.

Serving the public has been a lifelong role for Brotheron. Before his legislative career, he was a 14-year member of the Farmington City Council, seven of those as mayor, and he served two years on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

His career in private industry included 14 years for the Packard Motor Car Co. and 14 years for Chrysler.

"I'm going to miss the many Lansing friends I've made over the years, and the general atmosphere of the political arena," Brotheron said.

"However, I think it's time for me to wind down my political career, and get on with some of my other interests. I also plan to relax a little more than I've been used to."

Brotheron and his wife, Yvonne, have two grown children.

More girls sought for math, science fields

A General Motors engineer and a systems specialist for NASA will be keynote speakers at a career seminar designed to encourage girls in the areas of math, science and technology.

Choices: A Seminar on Math, Science and Computer-related Careers will be held Friday, Jan. 29, from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Oakland Community College — Orchard Ridge Campus, Farmington Hills.

Especially designed for female students in grades 6-9, it is co-sponsored by the Farmington schools DELTA and Career Development departments and the American Association of University Women, Farmington chapter.

About 25-30 students from each Farmington secondary school are expected to attend. Molly Brennan, GM research engineer who drove the solar-powered "Sunracer" to a first place in Australia last fall, will share the keynote speaking position with Theresa Scott, management information systems specialist from the National Aeronautics Space Administration.

IN ADDITION, students will be invited to attend three workshops of their choice. This is the second year these groups have sponsored such a workshop. Organizers list the following information as the reasons why it is needed:

- More than half of the U.S. population is female, but only 13 percent of its scientists are female.

- Women still cling to misinformation about their capabilities and are frightened of technology because of the complicated jargon.

- Astronaut Sally Ride is worried about the sometimes subtle, sometimes not so subtle, discrimination against young girls that is dissuading them from going into sciences.

- Seven percent of teenage girls use computers outside of class as compared with 40 percent of teenage boys. Twenty-five percent more boys than girls have a home computer.

- Three times as many boys as girls attend summer computer conferences.
- The number of science majors in college has

fallen by half since 1960.

- Nearly all large-scale studies find that girls and boys enter high school with roughly equal overall achievement in math. By the end of high school, 17-year-old boys outperform girls in every math category.

- High ability females adolescents' career aspirations are moderate in comparison to boys.

- By the freshmen year of college, the math filter has disqualified most high-ability young women from high-prestige, high-salary jobs.

- Students who select themselves out of math classes are thus closing off a wide range of future career and life options.

In addition to the keynote speakers, other women in fields such as veterinary medicine, piloting, chemistry, surgery, engineering, psychology and architecture will speak.

Students will be bused from their schools to OCC and returned when the seminar is completed. Call the DELTA department at 471-2429 for further information.

Council supports plan for local I-696 project

The Farmington City Council has supported state efforts to improve the I-696 expressway through Farmington Hills.

Widening the roadway to eight lanes, adding interchanges and improving current interchanges to handle more vehicles are all proposed as part of the plan by the state Department of Transportation.

"I've got to believe the more traffic they can handle . . . the better off we will ultimately be," said

Farmington city manager Robert Deadman, in discussing the situation recently with council members.

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, or SEMCOG, is required to get the opinion of affected cities as part of the review process for the project.

The estimated cost of the project is \$34.7 million, being justified by population increases, accidents, traffic volumes and future traffic projections.

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