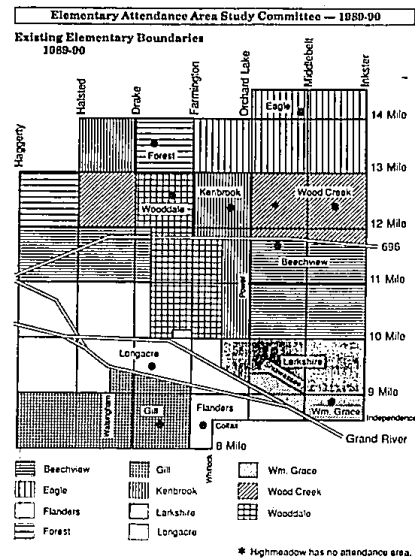
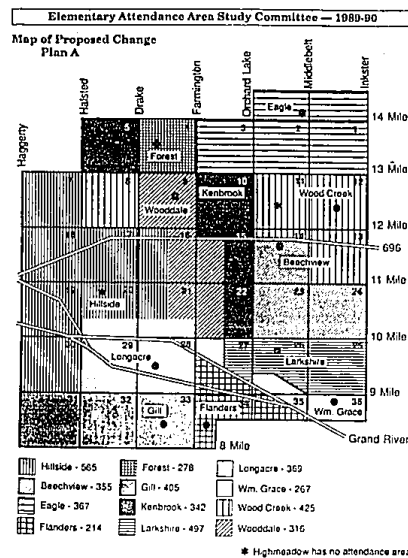
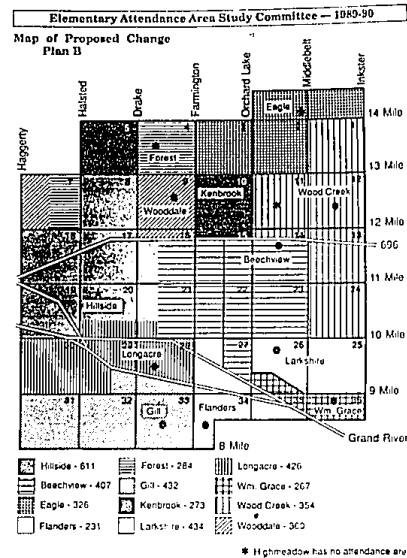




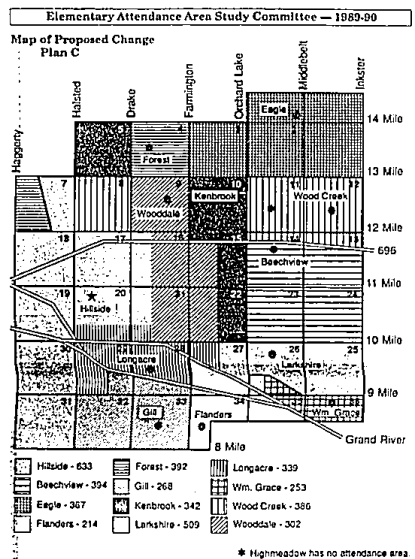
This shows existing boundaries of all Farmington Public Schools elementary facilities. It does not include Hillside Elementary, being built on 11 Mile, east of Halsted. Highmeadow Common Campus, also an elementary, has students from throughout the district.



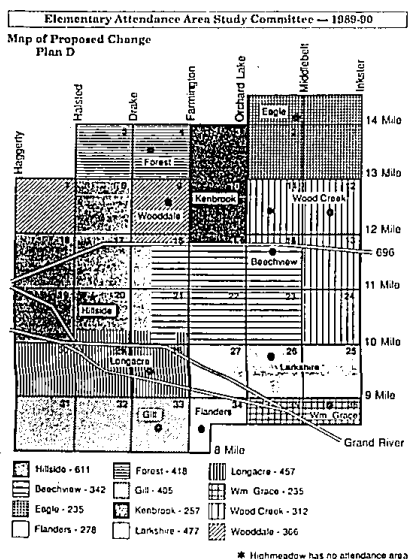
This is the only plan proposed in mid-November to which no revisions were made.



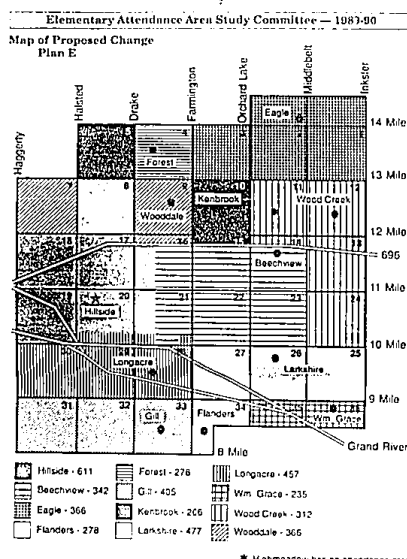
Wood Creek is a special focus here. This plan would alleviate eight buses currently coming from the western Section 8.



Plan C leaves Section 8 with a continued overcrowding situation in the north. This plan focused on the high expected growth in the southwest corner of Farmington Hills.



Plan D shows only one area, Section 7, which skips over any geographic areas. The other areas are grouped around various elementary schools.



This plan shows another of five ideas for adjusting elementary boundaries in Farmington schools. School board members will now review plans; a decision is expected in late January.

Elementary attendance options unveiled

Elementary Attendance Area Study Committee — 1989-90

Summary of Alternative Plans

Plan	Total Number of Students	Number of New Students	% of New Students	Projected Enrollment	% of Capacity	Number of Classrooms	Number of Classrooms Needed	Number of Classrooms Excess	Number of Classrooms Short
Plan A	527	65	1%	555	87%	2 Classrooms	2 Classrooms	0	0
Plan B	1,172	562	11.5%	611	94%	1 Classroom	1 Classroom	0	0
Plan C	514	14	+1%	533	87%	1 Classroom	1 Classroom	0	0
Plan D	1,008	622	12%	611	94%	1 Classroom	1 Classroom	0	0
Plan E	521	485	10%	611	94%	1 Classroom	1 Classroom	0	0

Does not include projected 1990 kindergarten enrollment.

Current conditions and projected growth due to construction in section 22 require additional classroom and cafeteria space.

Anticipated growth in section 7 due to new construction may create a need for portable classrooms at this school.

This chart compares each plan, as offered by a 19-member community panel Dec. 5. All have pros and cons, according to committee members.

By Casey Hans
staff writer

A school boundary study committee warned Tuesday that a new elementary school will not eliminate overcrowding in the Farmington School District. It recommended continued review of the situation.

The 19-member committee, comprised mostly of elementary school parents, offered five options for elementary attendance boundaries for the 1990-91 school year during a presentation to the school board Dec. 5.

They reviewed boundaries in light of the new Hillside Elementary School being built on 11 Mile, east of Halsted. It is slated to open next fall and will serve between 500 and 600 students.

BUT DESPITE the new school, committee members believe the district will not be able to eliminate the use of portable classrooms or set aside rooms for music, art and science at all schools, as was hoped. And no decision will be liked by all.

"There is no single solution; there is no magic answer," said group facilitator Pamela O'Malley, whose thoughts were echoed by other committee members who spoke at a Tuesday night school board meeting. "I expect we will get a direction and still need to look at refinements."

The five options are now in the hands of the Farmington school board, which will study them, make any changes and likely make a decision about attendance areas in late January. Board president Helen Prutow said the attendance area issue will be added as an agenda item at the next two board meetings to allow questions and comments.

Detailed information about the plans is available to the public through the district's School/Community Relations Office. School officials stressed the five are still "working plans" that can be revised based on community comment.

IN STUDYING the issues and designing the five options, the committee used boundaries such as neighborhood lines, parks, rivers and streams to divide areas in order to keep neighborhoods together. They gave extra attention to the long-distance commutes made by some students and growth potential throughout the district.

Five proposals for elementary school boundaries in Farmington drew a variety of resident responses during a two-hour discussion at a Dec. 5 school board meeting.

Many residents in two square-mile sections on the northwest side of the district — sections 7 and 8 in Farmington Hills — were concerned because the proposals did not show their children attending Hillside — the new westside elementary school.

Others from Hill Elementary told stories of extended lunch hours, holding classes wherever possible and general overcrowding that it not addressed effectively in the five plans.

"We do not want our area severed," said Mary Sue Barrett, a Wood Creek Elementary parent who lives in Section 8 — bounded by 13 Mile, 12 Mile, Drake and Halsted.

They also looked closely at district "hot spots," or problem areas, including:

- Longacre Elementary, which has five portable classrooms and is beyond capacity.
- Hill Elementary, which is in the fastest-growing area, with a 250- to 300-home subdivision currently under construction. Parents have complained of extended lunch hours to accommodate the many students.
- Forest Elementary, currently at or beyond capacity in an area with large growth potential from the west side.
- Flanders Elementary, currently at or beyond capacity.

Currently, elementary students in Section 8, like Barrett's, are bused across the city to the Inkster/12 Mile Road area.

GILL PARENTS made the board aware of their concerns. Deborah Banyal spoke representing herself, other parents and the school's PTA board. "All of us want to see an increase in educational opportunities," she said. "We want to elevate all (the schools) to the potential of Hillside. But none of these plans provide any relief for the overcrowding we are experiencing at Hill."

"We could not support Hillside . . . below (enrollment) capacity with enrichment programs, while Hill remains overcrowded," she said for the board to consider.

by using two portable classrooms and expected to exceed capacity.

- Larkshire Elementary, using one portable classroom and expected to exceed capacity.
- Beechview Elementary, at or beyond capacity with many students bused across the district from the west side.
- Wood Creek Elementary on the district's east side, which has many students bused across the district.

"We have (heard) and you will hear some frustration from the community," said committee chairwoman Cathleen Webb, a parent at Hill. "We share this. We thought Hillside to be the answer. It is not."

A concern was also raised about whether fifth graders would have an option of staying in their current school when boundaries are changed next fall.

School board members are expected to study the five plans, proposed by a citizens committee Dec. 5, and make any revisions and final decisions by the end of January.

"I know we're not going to make everybody happy," added trustee Janice Rolnick.

Residents react to 5 proposals