

Immediate study of facilities recommended

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 diend Beechview Elementary and would attend Wood Creek Elementary, Flanagan said. Members of the school board took a districtwide bus tour Saturday, reviewing key areas in relation to Flanagan's boundary proposal.

Flanagan to also study the feasibility of allowing current fourth graders the option of staying at their current school next fall to finish out the year.
 "I would like to see us give the parents of these (students who will be) fifth graders (in the fall) an option," she said. "I understand it may present a transportation problem."

JAMES ABERNETHY, a trustee who heads the board's boundary and site committee, which is overseeing the building of Hillside, asked parents in the still crowded schools, like Gill Elementary, to be patient.
 He said that any facilities task force study must be done as quickly as possible, but that it must review information from all areas, includ-

ing the community.
 "The decision that might come out of that task force won't come out of this room," he said. "That will go to the voters. We cannot shortchange community input on something that requires community approval."

Flanagan presented his plan to a packed house Tuesday night. Parents

from several areas of the community spoke, either in favor of Flanagan's plan or against a certain aspect of it.

ONE PARENT said the board should consider a "baseline equity" for all the schools as she discussed

an area of the district in which crowding would be alleviated.
 "I'm happy there are rooms that are going to be freed up," she said. "But I'm concerned about equity in the schools. I shouldn't have to win a lottery or live in a certain quadrant to get a computer lab."

Superintendent's recommendation for elementary attendance



School chief unveils boundary plan

Superintendent Michael Flanagan offered Tuesday what he believes is the best plan for filling the new Hillside Elementary School with students this fall, while addressing overcrowding in other buildings.

Flanagan's boundary suggestions are based on one of a group of plans offered by a Farmington-area community boundary study committee in early December.

The school board is expected to consider Flanagan's recommendation, and other options, during the next two weeks and make a decision about boundaries at a Jan. 23 meeting.

Flanagan's plan narrows and defines what was previously called "Plan A." It would:
 • send an estimated 553 students to Hillside, the elementary-level school currently under construction on 11 Mile east of Halsted. Under

this plan, Hillside would be at 85 percent of capacity leaving room for growth.
 • reduce enrollment at Beechview, Flanders, Forest and Longacre elementaries. Portable classrooms would no longer be needed for regular classroom use at Forest and Longacre.
 • increase enrollment at Wood Creek Elementary. Flanagan said this would better utilize the eastside facility.
 • eliminate cross-town busing for sections 16, 17 and 18. Section 8 students would continue to be bused east to Wood Creek.
 • leave Larkshire and Gill elementaries overcrowded. The district will consider what future options are available to help this problem.
 Under the proposal, only three schools — Wood Creek, Forest and Kenbrook — would be without continuous boundaries in which students would be bused across other attendance areas to get to school.

School aide faces assault charges

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 "With the hysteria over child abuse now, all the child has to do is say it, and it is automatic," she added. "It takes these kids time to think these things through. They talk to friends, to others. They don't just get up and walk to a principal's office."

late to touching children younger than 13, making them more serious, said Inspector Thomas Godwin of the Farmington Hills police. "If it had been an adult, it would have likely been a misdemeanor," he added.
 Police had requested warrants weeks ago on the sexual assault charges from the Oakland County prosecutor. Warrants were not received until last week. Godwin

said Dinesha turned himself in to police Tuesday.
 Dinesha is free on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond pending a preliminary examination of the charges Friday, Jan. 19 in 47th District Court. He remains on paid leave from the school district pending outcome of the investigation.

Hills' Year 2000 committee gives final report to council

News briefs from the Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls will appear regularly in this column.

CITY HALL
newsbeat

district is planned.

Farmington Hills
 • Year 2000 — Outgoing Mayor Terry Sever accepted the Year 2000 Project Steering Committee's final report at Monday night's city council meeting.
 Chairman Jack McDonald and vice chairman Paul Jacobs presented the 60-page, four-color report on behalf of six task forces and 150 volunteer members.
 They spent 10,000 man-hours producing the report, which provides "a vision of what residents want Farmington Hills to look like in the year 2000."
 "We hope you review and strongly consider our recommendations," McDonald told the council.
 The steering committee and the council will formally discuss the report at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, in the council chambers.
 Sever, instrumental in the planning of the Year 2000 project, said about McDonald: "You serve as an

example in stepping forward and taking a very important leadership role in the future direction of our community."
 • Rezoning OK'd — In 7-0 votes, the council Monday approved two rezoning requests:
 A half acre on the west side of Middlebelt, between Grand River and Belfast, from OS-1, office service district, to B-3 general business district. To be used in conjunction with an acre to the north to build an auto repair mall.
 OS-1, office service district, and B-3 general business district, to B-2 community business district, 3.6 acres on the south side of 14 Mile, between Orchard Lake Road and Northwestern Highway and Greening. A 3-tenant community business

• Bid awarded — The council Monday awarded a \$59,309 bid to the South Hill Construction Co., Wilcom, for local storm drain improvements. The improvements will be made at four locations: installation of an outfall storm sewer on Parkhill, north of 12 Mile; an outfall storm sewer at the intersection of Barlow and Greening, just east of Orchard Lake Road; a retaining device on Hunter's Row; and a storm enclosure on Grayfield at the Middlebelt Road intersection.
 Money for the improvements has been allocated in the city budget. The bid is about 10.1 percent below the city engineer's \$95,000 estimate.
 • Cost hearings — The council will host a cost hearing at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, for the Rollert sanitary sewer project. The special assessment district roll is \$48,741.
 A cost hearing is set for 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, for the Nine Mile and Whittington sanitary sewer project. The special assessment district roll is \$55,586.

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