



### Make-A-Wish

Several Make-A-Wish Foundation boys and girls — including a Farmington Hills girl — were guests at "Disney On Ice" at the Joe Louis Arena thanks to Michigan-based F&M Distributors Inc. The youngsters are (top row, from left) Jaime Simmons, Livonia; Julie Mortenson, Farmington Hills; Mickey Mouse; Frank Newman, president and CEO

of F&M; Gloria Sims and Philip Benson, Detroit; (bottom row, from left) Allison Kilduff, Dearborn; Jodi Gillies, Bay City; and Kristen Simmons, Livonia. "Make-A-Wish" is a national organization that fulfills the wishes of children, 2½-18 years of age, who suffer from life-threatening illnesses.

## School tax proposals worry district's chief

Farmington's school superintendent is relieved that a state proposal for sharing business property taxes is dead, even though he said its financial impact on the district would have been "a wash."

State legislators have gone back to the drawing board, once again, on the issue of school finance reform. But Michael Flanagan said he is waiting for the state's next move in what has become a lose-lose situation for suburban school districts such as Farmington. Since action was taken last summer to recapture millions from out-of-formula districts, Flanagan has eyed action in Lansing carefully.

Farmington lost \$2.8 million in that move and Flanagan has said he expects the state to take more, especially with a growing deficit.

"You can't be so parochial you won't look at new ide-

as, but you can't give away everything you've gained," said Flanagan.

As a former assistant superintendent for an in-formula district, Flanagan has been outspoken for several years on the need for equity in Michigan schools, but he is concerned about shrinking revenues to his current district.

The big concern for future proposals will be whether the state can guarantee the law, or whether it can be changed with a new law.

"The overriding issue is whether they call it a guarantee — and there aren't any," he said. "Unless they have a Constitutional amendment, nothing's guaranteed."

Flanagan said he could not support anything without a guarantee.

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