

Parents fight to save school aid

Continued from Page 1

the Social Security tax burden on local districts as they look for money. Such a move could cost the Farmington district \$4 million per year, Superintendent Michael Flanagan said.

And such a move may soon be made. Last week Gov. John Engler made his budget message and recommendations to the Legislature, which called for an increase in the education spending. Some people fear that increase may come from out-of-formula school districts like Farmington, with further cuts to Social Security funding or even dipping into pension contributions.

"Candidly, we're frightened about that," Flanagan said at a recent community meeting. "To now be hit again is something we did not expect."

Ideas flow at Farmington meeting

By Casey Hana
staff writer

More than 100 residents, parents and educators met Wednesday to brainstorm the future of education in Farmington, helping the public school system here develop new goals.

At a town hall meeting at Warner Middle School, ideas were written down as quickly as they were suggested, as participants delved into discussions on five of six national education goals formulated by President George Bush and U.S. governors in 1990.

There were hundreds of ideas offered. Some included: inviting adults to come into the classrooms to learn with kids, creating a mandatory parent skills class for high school students, and using

community resources like recycling programs for environmental learning.

An overriding theme through many of the discussions was to increase student self-esteem at all grades.

"I think we want them to succeed more than they do — there are too many failures," said one woman. "If you don't feel good about yourself, you're not going to do well."

THE SESSION was the second in a series of town hall meetings designed to get feedback from the community about what direction the district should take in coming years.

The district has also invited various community groups in for focus discussion, so their interests can be

documented. A community survey is also planned.

Superintendent Michael Flanagan said the process has been one of the "most eye-opening in his many years in education. He and other educators welcome the feedback, he said, adding that educators need a good dose of reality from the community to help them proceed because education is going to be "radically different" in just a few years.

"In education now, all of us are so close to it," Flanagan explained. "We need to go out and seek them (opinions) from a broad base. That's going to bring us to a position where we can see the real world."

"We're going to make it or break it in this country on our public education system," he added.

committee on School Aid and Department of Education including senators Dan DeGrow, Jack Faxon and John Schwarz.

• Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittees on School Aid, Department of Education and Public Schools Employees Retirement including representatives James O'Neill, Joseph Young, Wilfred Webb, Shirley Johnson, David Hollister, Richard Young and Donald Glimmer.

• Chairmen of the Senate Education Committee Sen. Paul Warner, and of the House Education Committee, Rep. William Keith.

Residents can obtain more information about the letter-writing campaign by calling Bennett at 477-9169, Lukasiak at 478-2740 or Kelly at 476-2575.

State finally OKs wetlands plan

Continued from Page 1

"That means we don't have to go back and ask for a permit next year," Call said.

To get the needed permit — one had been denied earlier in the year — the city council allowed the staff to send a plan calling for replacement on Peltz-MDOT.

That announcement in November drew a bus and cry from some members of the Peltz-MDOT ad hoc committee, many who said they were angered that city officials didn't inform them of the wetland replacement when staff began working on the permit months before they were informed in November.

Call and Mark Davis, ad hoc committee chairman, believe that receipt of the permit provides some leeway for developing another plan for wetland replacement. "I think we're moving ahead nicely. We're trying to take into account the alternatives (of replacing wetlands) that have presented themselves," Davis said.

AT THEIR NEXT meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 12, the ad hoc committee is expected to develop a recommendation to present to the Farmington Hills City Council. The recommendation, Call said, can take various forms, including not putting wetlands on Peltz-MDOT, putting all 5.1 acres on the property or just part of the requirement there and another part somewhere else.

The city council then can either adopt the recommendation or say another plan is needed, Call said.

Meanwhile, alternative plans have been suggested by the ad hoc committee's consultant, Todd Holloway, and by Jack Smiley, executive director of the Detroit Audubon Society.

City staff also are looking into the possibility of replacing wetlands in the open spaces or commons areas in subdivisions around the city. "We're looking at that in more detail right now," Call said.

Mark Roberts, president of the Colony Park Homeowners Association, suggested the use of the commons area in his subdivision for the wetlands replacement. "He's the first person who came forward," Call said.

The alternatives developed by Holloway call for 3.4 acres of wetlands replacement, not including the acreage that might be disturbed for the wetlands. The alternatives call for a smaller wetlands replacement and less disturbance to the surrounding area.

Smiley's proposal calls for a trust fund to be administered by the Audubon Society to buy non-regulated

'Most mitigation projects have met with minimal success. It's difficult to create something that's happened over hundreds and hundreds of years.'

— Jack Smiley
Audubon director

wetlands, for example, that would otherwise be lost to development. "This is to be a demonstration project to test the feasibility of this approach in meeting wetland mitigation requirements," Smiley said.

SMILEY'S PROPOSAL would require DNR approval and Farmington Hills would have to place \$600,000 in the trust fund. "The city would have no further liability or responsibility for the success of the mitigation efforts to be undertaken by this agreement."

His plan also would have the city place a conservation easement on the Peltz-MDOT, which would be held by the DNR, Audubon or other agencies to ensure that land would remain in its natural state.

"Preliminary indications are that the DNR is open to the alternative," Smiley said.

Other preliminary details would include the need to seek matching grants from the DNR, as well as private donations, and a maximum 3 percent of the trust fund's money would be allotted to cover the Audubon's administrative costs.

"The Detroit Audubon Society would be fully responsible to the DNR to show that this demonstration project meets or exceeds the wetland habitat benefits that would accrue under prevailing mitigation requirements," according to Smiley.

Smiley believes his proposal should be considered by the ad hoc committee and city officials. "I think our proposal would be a win-win situation. It would satisfy the DNR and save the city money in the long run," Smiley said.

He believes the amount of wetland replacement suggested for Peltz-MDOT is too much. The existing resources, including wildlife and vegetation, would be destroyed.

"Most mitigation projects have met with minimal success. It's difficult to create something that's happened over hundreds and hundreds of years," Smiley said.

U.S. educational goals listed

President George Bush and U.S. governors adopted a long-term strategy in 1990, listing six goals they want public school systems to reach by the turn of the century.

Called "America 2000 — An Education Strategy," the program focuses on education for students today and in the future, continuing education for those out of school, and promotion of a civic and family commitment to education.

More than 100 Farmington-area citizens, parents and educators met Wednesday night to brainstorm about the list of National Education Goals and what they mean to this area.

The goals are:

- All children in America will start school ready to learn.
- The high school graduation rate will increase to at least 90 percent.
- American students will leave grades four, eight and 12 having demonstrated competency in challenging

subject matter, including English, mathematics, science, history and geography, and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our modern economy.

• U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.

• Every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

• Every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.

All the goals, except for the second one, were discussed by the Farmington community. Superintendent Michael Flanagan said the district has already achieved the graduation rate goals, so he asked people to focus on the others.

March Tire Co. GOOD YEAR

COMPUTERIZED FRONT END ALIGNMENT
\$25⁹⁵ REG. ^{139⁰⁰}

Most Cars & Light Trucks
Rear Alignment At Additional Cost

EXPIRES 3-13-92

4-WHEEL BALANCE AND ROTATION

\$19⁸⁸ REG. ^{134⁰⁰}

Most Cars & Light Trucks

EXPIRES 3-13-92

March Tire Co.

7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
We honor all major tire warranties

Plymouth 767 S. Main 455-7800	Farmington 33014 Grand River 477-0670	Southfield 28481 Telegraph 353-0450
-------------------------------------	---	---

Canton 5757 Sheldon Rd. 454-0440	Westland 31235 W. Warren 721-1810
--	---

"SUITE" HEART ROMANCE PACKAGES VALENTINE'S DAY

February 14 or 15, 1992

<h3>"Suite" Heart Package #1</h3> <p>Overnight in Standard Suite</p> <p>\$99 Includes Tax</p>	<h3>"Suite" Heart Package #2</h3> <p>Overnight in Standard Suite including: 2 Rows • Godiva Chocolates • Champagne and Glasses</p> <p>\$139 Includes Tax</p>	<h3>"Suite" Heart Package #3</h3> <p>Overnight in Standard Suite including Dinner</p> <p>\$154 Includes Tax and Gratuity</p>	<h3>"Suite" Heart Package #4</h3> <p>Overnight in Standard Suite including: Dinner • 2 Rows • Godiva Chocolates • Champagne and Glasses</p> <p>\$195 Includes Tax and Gratuity</p>
--	---	---	---

EMBASSY SUITESSM

Detroit-Livonia/Metro West

10525 Victor Parkway • Livonia
Located in Victor Corporate Park

(313) 462-8000

Come visit us... you'll love what you see!

OPEN HOUSE

Marian Women's Center
of St. Mary Hospital
Friday, February 14
3 - 6 p.m.

- free blood pressure
- tours
- refreshments

The Marian Women's Center, recently opened at St. Mary Hospital, has been developed to answer the health needs of today's women. Services include diagnosis and care of female-related cancers, PMS, breast care and nutrition. Individual counseling and referrals are provided. An education and resource center will be available. A women's library is being planned. Everything women need -- with on-site mammography -- is available through the new center.

Come see for yourself...

Marian Women's Center
Marian Professional Building • Suite 212
(use St. Mary's Hospital's Levan entrance)
14555 Levan Road
591-3314