

Pickets from page 1A

Walking the line: An informational picket Tuesday at Farmington High School included teachers Tom Allen (front left) and Linda Siggia (front right).



SHARON LAURENCE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students returned to the classroom Tuesday, and school officials stress that school will remain in session despite the after-school picketing which is expected to occur daily this week.

After negotiating all of last weekend, teams stopped bargaining at about 9 p.m. Sunday, and employees met with their union representatives early Monday morning, where it was recommended they return to work this week as a "good faith effort," Alley said.

Talking since June

The district has been negotiating with three Michigan Education Association-affiliated unions since June. They include: the Farmington Education Association representing 738 teachers; a unit representing 210 custodial, maintenance and food service employees; and the Educational Support Personnel unit representing 265 secretaries, paraprofessionals and other support employees.

Bus drivers and administrators are in the middle of two-year contracts with the district. The drivers' are affiliated with the MEA, while administrators are represented by an independent bargaining association.

Both sides are proposing three-year contracts. According to information released this week from the district, they are offering the unions various options including one which would maintain their current health benefits and offer a 2.5 percent per year increase. Other wage and insurance alternatives proposed by the dis-

trict range up to a 4 percent per year increase with a change to preferred provider organization, or PPO.

Other issues

The district also has issues of instructional time on a major issue on the table.

The MEA is reportedly requesting the same insurance members currently have — through the MEA — with raises ranging from 5.5 to 6.5 percent per year, according to information released from the district. The union also is seeking reduction in elementary and secondary class sizes and a reduction in counselor/student ratio; the district contends class sizes are small enough compared with other districts.

Union officials did not confirm or deny the union figures released by the district.

Alley said contends the district's proposals "represent significant rollbacks in both language and our total insurance package" and that "their salary proposal to us of 2.5 percent will obviously not settle the contract." School officials have denied this, saying they don't want to take away benefits.

As of midweek, teachers at four other Oakland County districts were still negotiating contracts, as are those at Oakland Community College, Clarkston, Clawson, Lake Orion and Oak Park teachers are still without contracts.

Of the MEA affiliates still without contracts statewide, Farmington is the fourth largest district with 10,550 students, following Wayne-Westland, Ann Arbor and Warren.

Crash from page 1A

While short-term fender-bender accidents occur along construction routes, the result of road improvements means fewer serious accidents. Accidents through Aug. 24 topped 1,338 so far. That's compared to about the same time period last year when accidents were up to 1,437 and the previous year at 1,620.

So far this year 60 of the accidents involved alcohol, compared to 89 last year and 74 in 1990.

At the 12 Mile and Rollcrest intersection, which is also under construction, 125 accidents were reported last year. Cranston hopes that the realignment of Lewis Schulman Drive and Rollcrest, plus

other improvements at the intersection in front of Harrison High School, will decrease accidents there.

"We're engineering out some of our problems," he said. "What you do is cut down the opportunity for errors."

Golf benefit set for Sept. 15

The fifth-annual golf classic to benefit the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Bay Pointe Golf Club in West Bloomfield.

The event, sponsored by local businessmen and civic leaders, supports the programs and services offered to needy children and young women by the center.

Tickets may be purchased for a

\$200 donation and will include 18 holes of golf and dinner, as well as door prizes and other extras. Sponsorships are available.

Joining the men's event will be the Women's Autumn Golf Classic. A morning round of golf or bridge will be followed by lunch and a fashion show. Tickets are \$125 for golfers or \$50 for those who prefer bridge. Tickets and information on both events may be obtained by

calling Artlat Wells at 626-7627, Ext. 280.

The St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center in Farmington Hills is a non-profit agency providing residential care and treatment of abused and neglected children, pregnant teens and young single mothers and their babies.

Operated by the Daughters of Charity, the Center serves more than 200 young people and their families on a daily basis.

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