

Neighbor furious over student congregating

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

At 11 a.m. Farmington High School student James Poindexter stands on the corner of Shilwassee and Lake Way. He's there as long as it takes to have a cigarette.

Frank Migliore is smoking, too — smoking mad, that is. The resident across from the school is upset about how students congregate in front of homes during lunch breaks.

Migliore said kids trespass, walk behind residents' houses and use foul language when they're asked to leave. They also leave cigarette butts and wrappers behind, he added.

"It's nonsense over here," Migliore said. "Someone has to control these kids."

Migliore went before the Farmington School Board Tuesday to complain.

Building and Students Service director Don Cowan said he's aware of the problem. So did Farmington High principal Jim Myers and acting public safety di-

'It's nonsense over here. Someone has to control these kids.'

Frank Migliore
FHS neighbor

rector Gary Goss.

All three are taking steps to correct the matter.

Goss said tickets will be issued for loitering or possession of tobacco by minors. Both are misdemeanors and carry a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Last Wednesday, a patrol car monitored the situation. Only a few students turned up at 11 a.m.

Poindexter was one of them.

"Personally, I don't feel we're doing anything wrong," said Poindexter, 18. "We're 18, and we're of age. This (sidewalk) is public property."

Goss said if someone's passage is impeded, it's considered loitering — public property or not.

Poindexter said he and other

students congregate there because smoking is banned on school grounds. He said the problem started Tuesday when Migliore came out and "started griping for no reason."

Migliore became irate when a neighbor tried to remove her car out of the driveway but was blocked by a group of 12 to 15 students.

When asked to move by Migliore, some of the kids used profanity.

Poindexter admits he heard some others swearing during the incident. "This one kid has a big mouth. He started in with his foul mouth. He went too far."

Residents have complained before. "It has been a problem in the past," Goss said, "but not an overwhelming problem."

Cowan concurs, and the issue is not particular to Farmington High either. He said the key is a positive working relationship between the schools and community.

Said Migliore Thursday: "I'm satisfied at this point they're going to take immediate action."



Lighting up: Student James Poindexter puts a match to his smoke in front of Farmington High School. Police responded after residents complained about smoking students.

Low test scores threaten C'ville survival — trustee

BY MARIE CHESTNEY
STAFF WRITER

Clarenceville School District cannot survive if its students are unable to get passing scores on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) exams.

That warning was given at Thursday night's board meeting by Clarenceville trustee Linda Brandemihl.

Brandemihl's warning came after Superintendent David Kamish called the 1992-93 scores embarrassing and disappointing and announced that beefing up the reading, math and science curriculum would be the district's number one priority in the months ahead. Clarenceville includes northeast Livonia, southeast Farmington Hills, and northwest Redford Township.

A new state endorsement of high school diplomas in 1994 threatens the district's future, Brandemihl said.

"With that state-endorsed diploma we will be out of business," Brandemihl said. "There no longer will be a Clarenceville if we don't send a strong message of

how important the tests have become). The board will not tolerate these scores. They are unacceptable."

In 1994, the state will require that graduates earn passing scores on the three MEAP tests to earn a diploma officially endorsed by the state.

To get a state-endorsed diploma, students must achieve at least category 2 on the reading portion of the MEAP grade 10 test, at least 50 percent of the objectives on the math portion of the grade 10 test, and at least 50 percent of the grade 11 test.

Clarenceville's 10th-graders this year scored 15.4 on the math test and 41.1 on the reading test. Eleventh-graders scored 45 on the science test.

Those numbers reflect the percentage of students who did satisfactory work on the tests.

Anger tinged Kamish's voice as he lashed out at a district which he said does not teach its students concepts now taught on the MEAP tests.

"It's a shame our students have to take a test on information they

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Linda Brandemihl
Clarenceville trustee

have not mastered," Kamish said. "Our students need the chance to master the outcomes prior to taking the test. We can't continue to do that to our youngsters."

"This is not our students' fault. It is our fault. I'll accept no excuses for this, no socioeconomic excuses. This is embarrassing for our students who deserve to be with an institution that gives them results they can be proud of."

David Kamish
school superintendent

Change will take place immediately, Kamish told employees in a series of meetings this week and

in a letter to all workers. "I met with the union president and the union said something needs to be done. The union

wholeheartedly backs anything that needs to be done. I talked to middle school teachers and they said it's about time that we got our priorities straightened out."

Kamish is to meet Monday with administrators.

"The building principals are behind this 100 percent; central administration is too," Kamish said. "Some stuff will grumble, but I'll meet with them and set them straight."

The superintendent and school officials Ralph Skrocki, Cheryl Leach and Pat Vickery will visit classrooms in the months ahead

to make sure students are learning concepts taught on the MEAP tests, Kamish said.

The math curriculum will be rewritten, Kamish said.

The district-wide assault to improve MEAP scores will be Clarenceville's top priority, pushing a planned bond issue to upgrade school buildings into the background, Kamish said.

"Our students are more important," Kamish said.

David Simowski, Clarenceville High principal, met Friday with students to discuss the importance of the tests.

Voters decide tax renewals

Voters in the Farmington Public Schools will decide Tuesday whether to renew three years' worth of tax authorizations.

Polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. As in last June's school board election, eight precincts will be in operation.

The proposal asks voters to renew 12.0834 mills, which is \$31.1 million of the school operating budget.

Combined in the proposal:

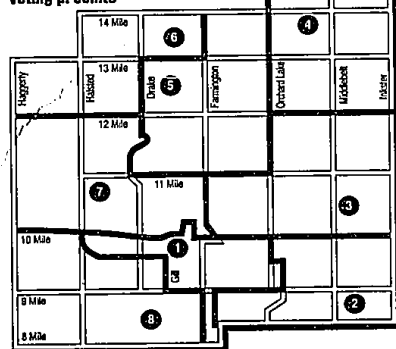
- 4.3155 mills that expired in 1992.
- 4.3155 mills that will expire in 1993, and
- 3.4524 mills that will expire in 1994.

Those reflect the effective Headlee Amendment rollbacks, and are subject to future reductions under a 1991 amendment to the General Property Tax Act.

Though this is a renewal, the word "increase" will appear on the ballot. That's only because 4.3155 mills expired last year, and the one proposal is technically an increase from zero. A legal requirement stipulates the word be included in the ballot language.

A turnout of 4,000 to 5,000 is expected.

Farmington Public Schools voting precincts



Where to vote:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Longacre Elementary
34520 Arundel | 5 Wooddale Elementary
28600 Peppercorn |
| 2 William Grace Elementary
29040 Shilwassee | 6 Forest Elementary
34545 Old Timber |
| 3 East Middle School
25200 Middlebelt | 7 Hillside Elementary
36801 W. 11 Mile |
| 4 Warner Middle School
30303 W. 14 Mile | 8 Gill Elementary
21195 Gill |



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County funds help widen Haggerty

Farmington Hills will use some county money to widen Haggerty Road between 10 Mile and Grand River.

The money will come from money designated for county roads under the Tri-Party Road Improvement Program. The

bulk of the money the city receives, some \$143,400, will go to the 12 Mile Improvement Project at Rollcrest in front of Harrison High School. The remainder of the \$170,768 the city receives in 1993, \$27,368, will go to the project.

Farmington Hills is contributing \$56,919 to the program, which pays for road improvements to county roads. The city council approved the Haggerty project by a 6-0 vote Jan. 25, with councilman Terry Sever absent.