

Concerned parent: Cynthia Rose, who has children at Warner and Highmeadow, speas at the meeting as school board trustee Jack Cotton (back row, right) listens.

# RAULIATIC BRAIN INJUR

All about trauma: During the meeting, Diane Abel of the Michigan Head Injury Alliance speaks about brain inju-



pointing: Joanne LaFleur. whose son was injured in a school fight, emphasized that the meeting was not to lay

# Violence

from page 1A

lem before it gets any larger than it is."

The meeting was the result of two fighting incidents in the Farmington schools, including one Dec. 8 at Farmington High in which a student was hospitalized

with a concussion.

The boy's mother, Joanne
LaFleur, was instrumental in
forming Citizens Against Violence, which invited an expert on
closed head injuries and SOSAD.

### Goal: Stop violence

Martin, is a spokesman for SOSAD, which was formed by Clementine Barfield in 1987 after her son was killed. The Detroit-based organization's goal is to top violence. Many welcomed Martin's call.

A few seemed to question the need to have outsider SOSAD speak on the subject, though.
"How do you know how many lights go on in schools?," asked

one student. "... The students go there. They know how many fights there are and who's in it. Why do you come here and say there's so many fights?" Building and Student Services director Don Cowan was present, as were board members Helen Prutow, Susan Rennels and Jack Cotton.

Cotton.

Also attending were Farmington acting public safety director Gary Goss, along with Thomas Godwin and Duane Fox from the Farmington Hills Police.

### Low self-esteem

Low self-esteem as a primary factor in many altercations. Fighting, he added, is a self-defeating behavior. He attributed a lack of self-esteem in children to many things: trauma in the home (divorce, alcoholism and abuse) and peer pressure.

Martin said forming a confit resolution program is a sta-Also, he asked children, parer, administrators and teachers o work together in finding a so-

work together in intune a unition.

"Our children are walking tip bombs," Martin said. "... If y don't release the pressure, you going to explode."

Some people used the meetly to vent their feelings.

Dave Climard, a senior at Farington High, questioned wheth rublicity surrounding fighting cidents at his school also contructs to the problem.

### Do more, parents say

One parent said the schos need to do more; another accust the schools of ignoring the pro-

lem.

Cowan responded: "I think to implication is many times we not doing anything regarding co-flict resolution, regarding spea-

ers. . . We are. Can we do more? You darn right. And we'll probably continue to do more."
LaFleur sald the purpose of the meeting wasn't to place blame, but to open a dialogue it did.
Afterward, one visitly upset parent showed Martin photos of her son's bruised and swollen eye, resulting from a fight Jan. 8 at Farmington High. Martin offered his support.
Another parent wondered if the message was heard by everyone for which it was intended.
"I wish the parents of the students who are violent were here," said Linda Kurtz, who has a child at Farmington High.
"Those are the ones we need to

at Farmington High.

"Those are the ones we need to reach. That's where the core of the problem is."

Kutz said the meeting offered good forum. Clinard ogreed.

"I think this started out with the wrong intentions, but ended up doing the right thing."

# Marillac from page 1A

vices, said he knew of "no dollar amount cut from Marillac's programs."
"They had a small contract with the state — six beds total," Cable said. "When those six were filled, where do you go from there? Other revenues had to be found."
Jacki Kelsay, St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher's community relations coordinator, said that in

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past years the state, if asked, would pay for more than the contracted six residents.
"It was just a matter of calling the state and asking for more," she said.

Kelsay emphasized that the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Center

"Is not going to quit caring ft pregnant women."

"We'll do just about everythis we can to help them on an our reach basis" she said. "We'll he them find places to live, hous hold goods, food and jobs."

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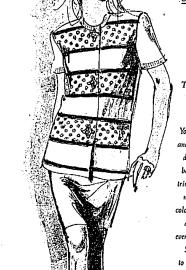
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