

# Walled Lake voters go to school on Project 21

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Coffee's flowing in the Walled Lake Consolidated School District — and so is information about "Project 21," the \$116 million bond issue to be decided by voters Tuesday, Sept. 27.

Beginning Thursday, a series of 19 public information meetings at individual schools will begin with sessions at Twin Beach and Pleasant Lake elementaries (set for 7 and 7:40 p.m., respectively). Augmenting those meetings will be a myriad of coffee klatches at homes, all designed with one thing in mind.

According to school board president David Flammer, the sessions are designed to better inform residents and taxpayers about why a successful vote is essential to the rapidly growing district's future.

## WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS

"There will be a videotape (shown) that introduces the concept and reviews for everyone what will be included in the bond issue," said Flammer about the school meetings and less-formal coffees, all organized by The Citizens for Walled Lake Schools. "And from there on it will be pretty much a question-and-answer-type session."

The video also was shown at the Sept. 1 board meeting, during a "Project 21" status report, Flammer said.

He explained that at each of the school meetings one district administrator and one school board member will be on hand to answer questions about the second major bond issue in two years.

At 7 p.m. today, the first meeting of the series will take place at Twin Beach Elementary School. Personnel and community relations director Lois Lange and board member Thomas McConnell are scheduled to attend.

At 7:40 p.m. today, at Pleasant Lake Elementary School, curriculum director William Hamilton and board member Marc Siegler are scheduled to attend.

According to Flammer, this year's information campaign goes beyond what was done for the \$135 million bond issue, defeated

in October 1993. Being more specific about what taxpayers money would pay for is only part of it; making sure people receive enough information before going to the polls is another.

To that end, a special six-page edition of the district's Learning newsletter was mailed out to all homes, including a listing of voting precincts.

"There always were people who said they didn't find out about the bond issue (in '93) even though there were mailings, individual notification, a video was shown on cable. . . And so we're following the same route again.

But we're trying to make a little more of an effort to make sure people find out about it," he said. Flammer added that district officials remain "very open and willing to talk to people" about the bond issue. "I don't know what more can be done in that area."

And those officials are cautiously optimistic that there will be a different ending when all the votes are tallied.

"We're still real optimistic," Flammer said. "We're glad (state school) financing has settled for now. People see what's happening and they see what's happening in

the district. The need for new facilities and technology." Major components of "Project 21" include: a \$10 million elementary school, to be built near 13 Mile-Meadowbrook roads in Novi; two new middle schools, costing a combined \$39 million, at Charns-Wixom roads and a to-be-determined site; a \$42 million "renewal" of Walled Lake Central High School; improvements to existing schools and enhanced technology.

For more information, or for answers to pertinent questions, persons should call the Project 21 hot line, 960-8318.

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