

Schulman from page A1

to the board at the same time Schulman was appointed district chief.

"He worked wonders with the board. His stamp on the district was, 'We're here for kids. Let's do what's right for kids.' I think he refocused everybody."

Longtime educator

That focus was honed through his 40 years of work in education, including time as a junior high teacher, college professor and high school principal.

He joined the Farmington district after serving as principal at Northeastern and Coolidge High in Detroit. He taught history at Mumford and Denby High.

After guiding Harrison High in its infancy, Schulman became assistant superintendent in 1972.

World War II put a hold on the native Detroit's teaching career. During the war, Schulman served as a cryptanalytic officer, deciphering German code. Fascinated by code and news reporters recall showing up before board meetings to listen

to Schulman's war stories and other insights on life.

"He was always a delight to be around," said R. Jack Inch, school trustee who had Schulman as a professor at Wayne State University. "He was almost like a father to me."

"I remember thinking, This is really an intellectual, bright man. What a pride it was to be associated with this man."

Schulman's ability to inspire learning continues, school officials said. Superintendent Bob Maxfield recalls how Schulman was on the "pantheon" among school administrators.

Maxfield and Inch visited the retired superintendent at Court-yard Manor of Farmington Hills, an assisted living facility where he lived until his death.

"I think there has been a long-standing heart and soul in doing what's best for students in this district ... I think he helped establish that foundation," Maxfield said.

Supported staff

Schulman was known for

backing his staff, allowing them freedom to do their jobs but being there to support them, said Don Cowan, instruction executive director.

"His style was very down to earth," Cowan said. "You wouldn't know how brilliant he was until he turned on his vocabulary. He could relate to anyone."

Inch remembered a parent lambasting a school administrator at a board meeting. Schulman told the woman he would stop the session and meet with her personally, but he wouldn't tolerate anymore public attacks of his staff.

"He said, 'You will not attack people who are not here to defend themselves,'" Inch said. "I've seen many people who duck issues like that. He met it head on. ... He was a very courageous man."

In addition to his children, Schulman is also survived by seven grandchildren. Funeral services took place Friday at Traux Funeral Home in Southfield. Burial is in Beth El Memorial Park in Livonia.

Playhouse from page A1

bers from constructing a building other than their dwelling on their property.

The Farmington Hills Board of Zoning Appeals grants a permit to the structure after initially denying the Palanis' request for a variance. The family didn't realize a permit was needed, Palanis said at a ZBA meeting July 15.

The playhouse was built without a permit and violated the city's zoning ordinance, a city official said. Subsequently, the structure was moved 10 feet away from the house and shortened by 15 feet to comply.

The city doesn't have the authority to enforce deed restrictions, said Lee Blizman, Hills zoning director.

"This is something between two neighbors and I hope they settle it," Blizman said. "Their children will be playing with other people's children in the subdivision and therefore you

hope everything will work out."

There's also a bit of irony to the story — aside from the fact that a child of a board member also played in the structure, Carol Palanis said. The Palanis' \$225 fee for association dues and that is being used to sue them.

Dues go toward maintenance of the commons areas and upgrades of play modules for children, Imesch said. "We have to allocate funds for legal fees rather than have play structures," he said.

Another neighbor suggests the problem has been allowed to fester and is not a reflection of the usually friendly subdivision.

"It's a very nice neighborhood," said Cherie Yetter, a Crompton Circle resident. "I feel this is a small isolated case that resulted from miscommunication on both sides."

"Hopefully, it can be resolved without having to go to court."

Films from page A1

The Old Orchard Theater opened in the mid-1970s and is considered a linchpin for dining and entertainment in the Orchard Lake and 12 Mile areas. The area is zoned office but has a special permit to operate as a movie house.

After AMC announced it was closing the Old Orchard and two other area theaters, rumors persisted that it would be turned into a dollar store or a restaurant. Great Eastern involvement gives the movie house a reprieve.

"We're in and we're moving forward to open," Walter said.

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