

# Mahmood

from page A1

A physician at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield, Mahmood sees few ill within the district as the 21st Century nears. In fact, he thinks so highly of Farmington schools that he gives administrators an A grade. But, he'd strive to push that mark up to A plus as a board member.

One of the first areas he would tackle would be to challenge students to achieve their goals and become excited enough about learning that they'd want their future career path to take.

"If you go to a senior class and ask them what they want to be, I

wouldn't be surprised if a large number say 'I don't know.'

That excitement and stimulation needs to start early, he said.

Improving the quality of teaching, through smaller class sizes and more individualized instruction, is one potential way to get to that point. Mahmood supports letting elementary school teachers stick to teaching – and allow parent volunteers or paraprofessionals to do some of the necessary classroom chores, such as marking papers.

Mahmood also goes as far as to suggest some elementary school teachers ought to be more specialized and better trained. "I

don't want jack-of-all-trades teachers at the elementary schools."

He likes the way the district is already implementing new programs in the elementary schools, such as foreign language.

"The potential is so high to learn even before kindergarten," he said. "We should expose our children to as much learning in the early stages as possible."

The candidate said enhancing the district in order to develop children into tomorrow's leaders should be a community-wide objective, decided in Farmington Hills and not by state education.

"I'd like to take care of our own curriculum by asking local people from all walks of life," Mahmood explained. "It should be a wide-based thing. We must involve the business community because we want to know what they need" from graduates.

Mahmood wouldn't stymie the creative juices of students. "We should let our children have ambitions and dreams and help them realize those dreams."

And that includes all students, even those who have special needs or are deemed "at-risk."

"There are some quite positive things for the high achievers," Mahmood said. "But I would also look closely at the people who

are at the low side. We should try to help them out because they have to be responsible citizens, they have to be productive."

With that in mind, Mahmood said the district should pay closer attention to those students who might want to pursue vocational training.

High-achieving students, he added, should be encouraged with advanced programs, plus honors and recognition including varsity jackets for those who excel.

As far as the always-controversial Michigan Educational Assessment Program is concerned, the Pakistani native said he opposes "teaching to the test" and putting labels on high school transcripts.

"I don't want diplomas marked in such a way where it may harm them" in the future, Mahmood said. "Someone might look negatively at their scholastic abilities because they didn't perform well on a test."

Still, he emphasized that students should learn how to take such tests, no matter what it is or where they take it.

"Tests will always be unfair in one way or another. But what we have to do is prepare our students in such a way that if we do test them, they'll do well."

## Edison worker sprayed by angry owner of dogs

A Farmington Hills man is expected to be charged after a Detroit Edison meter reader was sprayed with a substance Friday morning.

"We talked to the man who lived at that address and he said he was upset about the dogs being sprayed," police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "He felt that the meter reader should have asked to come on to his property."

The Edison worker told police he bypassed the house where the dogs were running loose and went to the next home. The dogs ran towards him and one snapped at him.

When asked about the pepper spray, the man said he couldn't remember what he did with it. He then told him it was in his desk drawer after officers said they'd get a search warrant.

Police took the man, 41, into custody.

"I think these workers have to defend themselves against these dogs," Dwyer said. "I think it's better to spray them and contain them. At least this has no permanent effect."

The worker, a 21-year-old man, was treated for red puffy eyes and released. Farmington Hills police tracked down the dog's owner, who is expected to be arraigned on charges of assault using pepper spray and

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