Survey *from page A3*

1995-96 (the last year of the former schedule at FHS) and 1997-98 also are inconclusive and virtually meaningless, she continued.

"We didn't collect this kind of data on the old model, so we don't know, if held up to the same standards, how the old model would look under this kind of evaluation."

White also doesn't put much stock in rumors that some of the first school districts to change to the block (on the East Coast of the United States) have already scrapped the alternative scheduling plan.

"If it were true, so what?" White said. "It doesn't tell me how well they did it, whether they followed up, did an evaluation, whether they adjust ... It doesn't tell me anything. It doesn't tell me whether the community let that school really have an opportunity to do well."

White said the reason the district began studying block scheduling in the early 1990s was because people in the community said they wanted better graduates to be produced – so they could more-successfully step into an increasingly complex, demanding world.

Tough transition

The struggles of ninth-graders also shouldn't be misinterpreted, said both Barrett and White. They stressed that the transition from eighth to ninth grade has always been a problem, and that the district is working on a proposal to address that issue.

Barrett refuted claims by someone who wrote an anonymous letter to the Farmington Observer, that FHS last year had more ninth-grade failures than North and Harrison combined.

"There is no discrepancy in the number of failures, both at those schools and nationally," Barrett said.

And he absolved block for the Greentree finding that 31 percent of freshmen attained less than a 2.0 grade-point (with 20 percent under 1.5).

"This has been going on forever," Barrett said. "There's a major trauma when students move from middle school to high school ... There's a transition problem. There are studies going back to 1805 in Finland, where they noticed that with kids going from middle school to high school there was trauma going on and grades dropping."

List *from page A1*

"accordingly," said Gary Goss, Farmington Public Safety director.

"We would not like to see discrimination against a person because his name happens to be on a list. On the other side of the coin, we have an obligation to protect our communities."

Since the list went public, accuracy has been a problem. Convicted sex offenders are required to notify authorities when they move. Some don't bother.

On Thursday, someone contacted the Hills police department after seeing the name of a sex offender on the Internet. The person lived in a Hills apartment complex but has since moved to Novi.

"That is public information, but people should use caution as far as the use of it because sometimes the information is not accurate, it has not been verified," Hills Police Chief Bill Dwyer said. "There is a possibility for human error.

"You have to be concerned about any vigilante type activity by someone assuming that particular person lives at that address."

Prior to going on the Internet, the list has been available at police departments. Only a few people have checked the list at both Farmington and Farmington Hills police stations.

Three names listed are from Farmington.

ACLU officials have come out against the list being put on the web. There have been other bugs, including incorrect zip codes since the list went up on the web.

> ■ 'That is public information, but people should use caution as far as the use of it because sometimes the information is not accurate, it has not been verified. There is a possibility for human error.'
>
> *Bill Dwyer*
> *—Farmington Hills police chief*

Tigers *from page A1*

to get into the lineup. Stanley acquitted himself well, they said.)

How do they feel about players making so much money today?

"I don't like to think about it or I cry," Brown said. "Really, I say more power to them. ... The owners took advantage of us. If they would've treated us halfway decent, they wouldn't be in the position they're in today."

Money factor

Wilson, who pitched for the Tigers from 1966-70, believes money hurts players' desire.

"When you have a $100 million guaranteed contract, you say to yourself, 'I'm not diving into a pole for a loose ball,'" Wilson said.

Wilson is with Farmington Hills-based Autotek, which supplies sealants and other products to the auto industry.

Brown, who played for the Tigers in the 1960s-70s, is retired and lives in northwest Detroit. He also served as a hitting instructor for the Tigers when they won the 1984 World Series.

They share a lot of laughter and history.

"I was the rebel," Wilson said. "I was always the one who started ..."

"... the bulls---," Brown said finishing the sentence.

They relate how Brown extracted $50 from the 1968 Tigers' most notorious member, Denny McLain, whose antics riled teammates. Worried after a couple players threatened to jump him, McLain approached Brown to act as an intermediary.

Brown took the cash and reported back to his teammates – including Wilson – who were laying in wait.

"Gates came back to us and said, 'You leave him alone for now. Once we clinch the pennant it will be open season on him.'"

The Detroit Tigers 1968 World Championship is credited for healing the city badly scarred after the 1967 race riot. They appreciate the credit, but Wilson said, "I think our problems where a little bigger than any ball game could solve."

Brown was one of the few black players on the Tigers in the early 1960s. He welcomed Wilson, who came to Detroit in a trade from Boston.

At the time, blacks were still unwelcome in some hotels and restaurants especially in Florida where teams played during spring training.

Wilson thought nothing of sitting in the lobby of those hotels, unfolding his newspaper or convincing his other black teammates to jump into the supposedly off-limits pool. Times were different, they said.

'Didn't fight'

"I'd get on (Tigers General Manager) Jim Campbell's behind because he didn't fight for us," Brown said. "You heard about Bill Veeck, the Chicago White Sox owner. When they didn't allow his black players to stay at a hotel in Florida, he bought the hotel.

"We liked Mr. Campbell, but he sort of just rolled with the times."

Brown didn't always relish his role, which earned him the reputation as the game's premier pinch hitter.

Under Billy Martin in 1973, the slugger had 300 at bats. That number dwindled to 50 the following season with Ralph Houk at the helm.

"Gator" sells himself short, Wilson said. Brown's presence on the bench often forced opposing managers to stay with a weary left-handed pitcher instead of bringing in a fresh right-handed reliever.

They played for the last true championship team. They were homegrown, brought up together through the minor leagues. They played, drank and, if necessary, fought together.

"Earl and I probably won't make the Hall of Fame, but a lot of Hall of Famers don't have World Series rings," Brown said. "That what it's about ... winning."

in the 90s
by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S.

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