

Block from page A1

Several parents also spoke, mostly complimenting the end result but also urging both the schools and parents to maintain open communication during the changeover.

Implementation of the block will cost between \$613,000-\$23,000 at Harrison and between \$579,000-\$45,000 at North, with those expenses mostly for additional staffing.

Both high schools will go to an alternating block schedule, with a seventh course offered. Students would attend three or four classes for four days of the week, with all classes meeting on the fifth day.

North plan

At North, where block will be implemented in 1999-2000, there will be one session of Student Enrichment Time, SET, (similar to Farmington High School's existing Student Managed Academic Resource Time) and a second extra block for teacher collaboration and student support.

When Harrison goes to the block in 2000-2001, available to

students will be an "X-block" program for two sessions weekly, for assemblies, activities, student enrichment and remediation.

Assistant principal Mary Brown emphasized that although the X-block is considered part of the actual school day, attendance won't be mandatory unless students have work to complete or assemblies to attend. Brown, meanwhile, added that there won't be any loss of instruction time due to the X-block.

Only one resident spoke with any real qualms about the proposal. "Are there any negatives to this proposal? If it's so perfect why didn't we do it years ago?" asked Bill Stieber, an East Middle School parent. "... I think a million dollars is a lot to spend. Have all the ramifications been looked at? I think I'm in favor, but you have to look at both sides."

North math teacher and block committee leader Michael Horner, responding to Stieber's

concerns, did say that more research is emerging that support the positive impact of a block schedule. He listed improved attendance, lower dropout rate, stronger bonds between teachers and students and a calmer school climate.

Horner, however, said "research is a lot more sketchy" about whether the block promotes an increase in student achievement. But he warns against putting too much stock into comparisons.

"I, being a mathematician," Horner said, "have a real hard time looking at one particular school, whether it's Farmington High School or Birmingham Groves or anywhere else, on a year-to-year basis and try to make comparisons that make sense. There are so many other variables."

Findings discussed

Horner noted an excerpt from the district's support council proposal, which quoted findings published in the December 1998-January 1999 article of Educa-

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Bill Stieber

—East Middle School parent

Leadership.

In that article, it was reported that 93 percent of public schools in Virginia were using one form or another of the block; with reading and math gains higher in block than traditional, according to the Virginia State Assessment Program.

Meanwhile, Ilene Klegon and Beth Grossman, North and Harrison parent block scheduling committee members, respectively, also spoke, mostly to lead the "process" that led to the compromise proposal.

"I recognize that the option being presented tonight is currently the most viable option for North Farmington," said Klegon, reading a statement to the

board. "I support it and hope that the board also will support it."

Klegon, however listed some concerns about the proposal and encouraged that "ongoing faculty and curriculum monitoring and coaching be an integral part" of implementation.

Among some of Klegon's other concerns: longer class periods; fewer class meetings per week; reduced total instruction time per course. Those issues "require changes in teaching ... and curriculum. Unless all teachers and administrators are committed to flexibility and change, I am concerned that student performance will suffer."

Grossman, one of the more

vocal parents who opposed the four-by-four block plan at Harrison last year, told the board that she is "still not a major proponent of block scheduling, but I feel much more comfortable (about it) and parents calling me throughout this process (are) feeling more comfortable."

Another parent, Tami Fox, commented about bringing in additional technology staff to help the high schools make the transition to fewer-but-longer classes.

'Ultimate goal'

School board Treasurer Frank Reid lauded the thoroughness of the proposal, that it correctly focused on "the ultimate goal, student achievement."

But Reid also said he'd "like to see a comprehensive evaluation plan baked into this whole process. We need to start that data collection now — or very soon, so we can accurately reflect progress toward these goals."

Rage from page A1

blocked off.

"He should have pulled his car over immediately after the accident, which is what the law

requires," said Dan Lemisch, prosecuting attorney. "Especially an accident as serious as this where someone was killed."

An extensive investigation is the reason for the four-month delay in charges being filed, Lemisch said.

"It's a very technical case because of the nature of the accident and the cars involved," he said. "We wanted to make sure

the investigation was completed and thorough."

Bowser's attorney couldn't be reached for comment.

ARRAIGNMENT

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

READY TO BE CROWNED?

The word "prosthodontic" comes from Greek words meaning "replacement of teeth." One of the major replacement procedures dentists undertake involves placing artificial crowns atop teeth whose crowns are too badly damaged to be repaired with onlays. Sometimes referred to as a "cap," an artificial crown replaces the natural crown of the tooth's natural crown. This procedure entails removing the damaged portion of the crown to near the gumline, taking an impression of the prepared tooth and the opposing jaw, and preparing a temporary crown (to be worn while the artificial crown is fabricated in the laboratory). Once the custom-made crown is cemented into place, it is virtually indistinguishable from its natural counterpart.

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Obstacles from page A1

close their Dearborn location and move to Farmington, into retail space that would have been double what they currently have.

The grocer apparently became hesitant after weighing the cost of expanding, plus the competitive-but-uncertain nature of the metro Detroit grocery business — into the area and others struggling to survive.

"There are two (independents) in Chapter 11 right now," the city manager noted.

Lauhoff said Kimco will switch gears and start looking for another grocery store or retail business to plug into the 10,000-square-foot spot vacated last June by Farmer Jack, which still has a viable lease until Sept. 30, 2001.

The city council last summer went on record that it doesn't want the Farmer Jack space to remain dark and that it would

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

file a lawsuit against Farmer Jack/A&P if the food chain didn't cooperate in finding a suitable replacement.

But, explained Lauhoff, A&P officials did cooperate in the efforts to bring the Dearborn food store to Farmington. "They (A&P) are not the stumbling block."

Despite the double whammy, Lauhoff had confidence that Kimco would be able to quickly resolve the two matters.

"This downtown is just so important to this entire community," Lauhoff said. "You have a landlord bringing in the kinds of businesses the community said they wanted (through the long-range downtown 'visioning' plan). Kimco has been a great

landlord."

Great Harvest's Roger Novelly said the bread company has a "signed lease," and has already tied up a substantial amount of money with a contractor for planned renovations of the space.

Novelly, who is teaming up with brother Ray, stressed that Kimco officials approached them last year about the availability of a location in the center.

"They came to us," Novelly said. "They explained to us that this 99 Cent Store was on a month-to-month lease. We were supposed to move in on Jan. 15 and we couldn't do that. Then we were due to move in on Feb. 15, and that hasn't happened."

"It is disappointing. We had our contractor ready, our equipment ordered. It really puts us, financially, in an awkward position."

'This downtown is just so important to this entire community. You have a landlord bringing in the kinds of businesses the community said they wanted (through the long-range downtown 'visioning' plan). Kimco has been a great landlord.'

Frank Lauhoff
—City manager

Still, he emphasized that Great Harvest doesn't want to cause any trouble for the 99 Cent Store over the space.

"Kimco promised to deliver the building and that hasn't happened," Novelly said. "But, at the same time, we don't want to force anyone out, either."

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CRACKING KNUCKLES, CREAKING KNEES, AND SWISHING SHOULDERS

Those of you who crack your knuckles, feel relieved. Those people who told you, while you were cracking down, that you were waking down the road of ruin, are wrong. Cracking your knuckles does not bring on arthritis.

The same inaccuracy holds for creaking knees. If your knees squeak when you walk or run, do not worry.

Such sounds in joints whether from knuckles, knees or neck represent the release of compressed air from bones. Why some people collect these bubbles and others do not, is unknown. What is clear is that the noise has no meaning and certainly does not reflect undue wear and tear on the joint.

Another harmless sound that may startle you, occurs after a shoulder injection. At the time of injection of either local anesthetic or steroid into an inflamed shoulder, air tends to follow. During the time it is present the air emits a swish or burp when movement of the shoulder causes the air to shift its position. Eventually the body absorbs the air with no harm to the joint.

A last sound not to ignore is the snap. That short, sharp noise indicates that a bone is broken or a ligament is torn. In most cases that sound follows with intense pain that demands immediate attention.

As for joints that crack, or swish, take no concern, these sounds don't count.

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