Select elementary students will get laptops in 3-year pilot

Walled Loke elementary students won't get laptops in January as proposed, and, for the most part, their parents are pleased.

But parents had mixed reactions recently to the administration's proposal to make laptops available to a select group of fith and sixth grade students during a three-year pilot program beginning next August.

That proposal was unanimously approved by the board of education.

The "Anytime, Anywhere

y approved by the board of edu-cation.

The "Anytime, Anywhere Learning Program" would cost about \$50 per month per child for laptop leases, a cost parents would have to pay.

Opposing parents were con-cerned that unless the board financing, some students will be excluded.

"Does this become a program."

"Does this become a program of the haves and have nots in a public school setting?" asked Steve Loe, a Novi parent.

Brenda Gelman-Berkowitz and other parents who were against the program said the monthly costs could easily shoot up to \$80 or \$100 per month.

Fifty dollars, I don't believe, is what this costs," Loe said. Now we're faced with Internet access charges and a lot of families will have to put in another phone line so they can stay in contact with the world while their kids are on the Internet.

The district is not paying the their kids are on the Internet.

The district is not paying so the form only said William Hamilton, district assistant superintendent of curriculum. The schools will pay the cost of teacher training, which is unknown.

Mike McClintock, a Commerce Township parent of four school children and a laptop owner since 1990, said be knows fram personal experience that laptops become obsolete in about two years.

"I cannot afford laptops for my

years.
"I cannot afford laptops for my four children and for my busi-

neus," McClintock said. "I can put two computers in my house for the cost of one of those." He said the pilot program would eventually lead to peer pressure and students whose parents can't afford laptops will feel pressured into buying them. Wixom parent Lori Rich ogreed.

teel pressured into buying them. Wixom parent Lori Rich agreed.

"A large part of their identity is tied to what they have," she said of middle school students. Rich said there are many moderate income families who can't quality for financial assistance. Hamilton stressed the whole program is one of choice. It will be offered to a select group of current fourth and fifth graders in Walled Lake, Pleasant Lake, Hickory Woods and Keith elementaries. If there aren't enough of these students, who were chaent of the original pilot program, other fifth and sixth graders from those schools and the four middle schools will have the opportunity to participate.

The program, which was proposed to be offered to a group of

of 12 Mile, east of Orchard Lake Road from office building to office research district. Propo-nent is C. Michael Kojnian. Owner is Orchards Office Associ-

ates.

4. Site condominium plan on the east side of Cass Avenue, south of Nine Mile for 12 lots. Proponent is Sam Buki, Tri-West Development. Owner is Tri-West Development.

third through fifth graders in January, was altered following the parent survey.

Of the 93 percent of fifth grade parents who responded, about 40 percent said they weren't willing to pay for the laptops.

Other parent concerns included educational benefits, responsibility of young children carrying the laptops to and from school and access to the Internet. The district plans to find a service which will limit access.

Humilton said.

Parents who supported the concept and they believed it would increase their students knowledge of technology and school and access to the Internet.

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Parents who supported the concept said they believed it would increase their students knowledge of technology and provide real world opportunities. Some school officials and parents said the laptop program is also a way to motivate children to learn.

Hamilton said he envisions a

fifth through twelfth grade Intop program, but district officials
will try to figure out a way to
reduce the costs for everyone's
first.

One idea is finding corporate
denors for individual students.
The Walled Lake Foundation of
Excellence has agreed to subsidize those costs for low income
fimilies and is considering a 50
percent subsidy for parents who
have more than one child
involved in the program. involved in the program.

Just because something is old doesn't mean it isn't valuable.



I can relate to that, maybe that's why I'm never in a rush with those guys. Sunding out a dent here and there, restorting the geras, soon I'll have all the time in the world for them, just like they have for me. That's the beauty of retirement. And move that it's almost here, I'm grateful that I started planning early—with U.S. Sovings bonds. I started buying Savings Bonds when I you my first real job, through a Thyroll Savings plan. I put aside something, every payday, and little by little, it really addied up Bonds are guaranteed safe, too, and carn interest up to 30 years. In a few more years, woull' find me out here in the workslop more and more, fixing a hinge or polishing a case I know that there's a lot of life left in these old guys. I can relate to that.

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AGENDAS to create two parcels of single-family residential. Proponent is Robert LaValley. Owner is Robert and Colleen LaValley. 2. Rozoning request on the north side of 10 Mile Road, east of Ridgeview Drive from office service district to single-family residential. Proponent is Steven Schafer. Owner is Phoenix Land Development.

levelopment. 3. Site plan on the south side

The following are agendas for some of the governmental meetings for the coming week:
Farmington Hills Zoning
Board of Appeals
Special meeting
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 15
City hall, 31656 11 Mile
Road
J. Request variances to remodel and add to an existing industrial building at 20720 Tuek
Road. Applicant is Anthony
Aralanian, owner is Don Arslanian

Farmington Hills Planning
Commission
Public-preliminary hearing
meeting
7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17
City hall, 31555 11 Mile

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17
City hall, 31656 11 Mile
Public hearings:
1. Master plan amendment: an
amendment to the master plan
for future land use for parcels on
tion north side of Eight Mile,
between Eight Mile, and Grand
Riyer.
2. Cluster site plan on the
southwest corner of 13 Mile and
Middlebelt rands. Proponent is
Michael Fellows, Cove Creek
Ltd. Partnership. Owner is Gove
Creek Ltd. Partnership. The side of the
Middlebelt rands. Proponent is
Middlebelt rands. Proponent is
David A. Gans, Franklin Investment Co. Owner is Herbert Ludwig and Patrick Carron.
1. Preliminary hearings – old
business:
1. Revised site plan for 20720

Preliminary hearings – old business:

1. Revised site plan for 20720
Tuck Road. The request is for an addition to the existing Custom Forge facility. Proponent is D.C.&A. Properties.

2. Revised site plan for the southeest corner of 14 Mile and Middlebelt roads. The request is for an addition to the existing Mino Salvaggio International Marketplace. Proponent is Roger Wade, Sarkesian Architects. Owner is ABS Properties.

New business:

New nusiness: 1. Lot split at 22300 Gill Road LIONEL:

New York Central Flyer Freight Set

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Anjana M. Barad, MD, is a specialist in Family Practice, providing general health care to individuals of all ages. She has a special interest in pediatric and adolescent health, women's health, preventive medicine, and patient education.

Upon earning her medical degree at Wayne State University, Dr. Barad completed her residency at Providence Hospital. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Medical Association.



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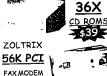
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