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Course, located across the street, plans call for building 80 duplexes and 76 townhomes on the San Marino side and 302 apartment units on the Elexan Pines side.

Officials on Feb. 28 qualified the property for Planned Unit Development zoning. If the PUD receives final city approval, it would allow the golf course and housing to be built on a parallel track.

Residents that night had asked officials to slow down the process by tabling the issue. After testifying for hours at the public hearing, they met again

Monday night with State Rep. Andrew Raczowski, who said his goal is to listen and determine the facts.

"I have been contacted by many residents and a number of homeowners' associations," he said of his involvement. "They're requesting information from our office and about the DEQ...They're looking for what, exactly, has happened with this property and what's in it."

Raczowski said he told residents "what's done is done" since the land is now public property, and they should start looking at

how to work together to determine the next course of action. He was bothered by talk that residents have no right to complain now, because they didn't protest when the land was purchased.

"I really don't think anyone has the right to say the citizens shouldn't be commenting at the 11th hour," he said. "They pay taxes. They live in this community. They can come forward at 11:59 if they want to."

Along with the March 18 study session, residents are invited to a meeting with DEQ specialist Steve Kitler, to be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, at the Farmington Hills Library.

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"The problem of the 21st century is the racial divide," he proclaimed. "And at the heart of all discrimination lies the same cancer."

He blamed people in power, including police officers and officials ranging from Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson to Gov. John Engler, for enjoying the benefits of a racist society. He said Detroit cops play the role of an occupational army.

Ravitz said one of his clients was caught Driving While Black in Redford in April of 1998. The police said he had a knife, Ravitz said, although the attorney said he couldn't see it on the police videotape. His client received 17 bullet wounds in his body and walks with a limp from that contact, Ravitz said.



Presenting: Harrison High School American Studies teacher Chris O'Brien (left), with students Justin Roumayah and Alvin Lymas.

Brouillette from page A1

"It's important that people on the board are motivated by only their desire to make sure kids receive a good education. I thought about what difference I could make and decided I would try it. I felt like I could represent a fair point of view."

She learned how to run an election by asking for advice from people who had done it successfully. "I learned as I did it."

She learned how to deal with

the media through experience.

"In dealing with the media, it helped that I studied journalism a bit. I worked on my high school and college newspapers. I'm comfortable with public communication, but I'm by no means polished at it. I'm honest when I talk about things. It seems to have worked well."

Brouillette says our country has come a long way since the 1960s, when she was afraid to

run for president of the student council. She thought she wouldn't be elected because of her sex.

"I feel generally respected when I speak and that my views are listened to," she said. "Maybe that's the nature of school board work. It's easy to be a woman in this kind of work, since many administrators and teachers are women. It's certainly a comfortable group. I haven't experienced any form of discrimination."

Brouillette has served on the Farmington Board of Education for four years.



Justin Ravitz

bringing some tears.

Many shared personal stories. Growing up in Winston-Salem, N.C., Lasenia Jones remembers the segregated 1950s well.

She stood and shared her story with the group.

"There was nowhere to play, swim or go to the bathroom," she said.

Her parents taught the black girl who would become an elementary school principal how to walk if she spotted a police officer - quickly. She was always to walk in a group, because "in certain areas of the state things were likely to happen."

At 52, the respected Wooddale principal still refuses to drink from a porcelain drinking fountain.

"They were reserved for us," she said. "We used to refuse to drink from them at all. My family took a cooler in the car. We

had everything in the trunk."

Gloria Vanderlugt approached Jones after the talk. The family service coordinator for Farmington Public Schools had a racially charged upbringing, although she is white.

Vanderlugt lived in a predominantly black area of Chicago. She can remember being the only white kid walking home from school to the projects.

"People would throw bricks and call me n*****," she said. "Even the police would stop me and ask what I was doing there."

"I know what you mean," Jones said, shaking her head. "I had to intervene for friends who were white, or just fair-skinned."

The multicultural/multiracial council's co-chairman said the event was a success.

"I think the purpose was to create awareness," said Jim Hall. "There's a reason people find themselves in the positions they're in. The group in power bears some responsibility. I'm not playing a victim role here. But they can use their power to elevate people out of that position."

Ravitz called for Farmington to become a model community.

"Lord knows, we need some good modeling, eh?"

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Jim Hall, multicultural committee

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