

Boundary from page A1

to Wood Creek.

And families with students currently attending Wood Creek will have a five-year "grandfathering" period if they choose the status quo works better for them. The original recommendation of the Limited Elementary Boundary Study Committee included a two-year period.

"We have an intense relationship with all our children and we're going to miss a lot of our Section 8 kids and families," said Wood Creek Principal Berna Ravitz following the meeting. "But we think this is just an opportunity to recruit other students who want a school of choice, or perhaps to offer new programs to fill any spaces that open up."

Ravitz vowed that her school would continue its dedication to excellence, despite the possibility of losing a large number of students.

A choice

There are about 80 Section 8 students attending Wood Creek who could opt to leave, but any number could decide to take advantage of the grandfather clause.

Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield said a letter would be sent out quickly to all of the impacted residents, clearly

delineating the redistricting and grandfather clause option. A tear sheet at the bottom of the letter will need to be returned by Friday, March 30, so individual buildings know how many students would rather stay at their current school.

According to the plan, the western half of Section 8 (which borders new subdivisions on Hillside) will attend Forest Elementary School. Those living on the eastern half are slated for Hillside Elementary School.

A number of Section 8 families also send their children to private schools and other schools of choice in the district.

Parents began pushing for redistricting last year, so that their children could attend school closer to home.

Although the original recommendation, presented to the board on Feb. 6, included that Section 8 be divided between the Forest and Hillside attendance areas, it did not include the redistricting of apartment complexes along Grand River in the Longacre Elementary School attendance area.

The committee felt it would be better to hold off making a recommendation about Longacre until further study could be done. But concerns raised by parents that the school was

rapidly running out of classroom space were heeded.

Taken to heart

Longacre PTA president Kim Heath reiterated a concern she presented Feb. 27, that potential overcrowding at that school be included in the final version.

Heath's words, and those submitted in recent weeks by other Section 8 and Longacre residents, were taken seriously by board members, who voted unanimously to include Longacre as part of the expanded, approved version of the proposal.

"We've received an incredible amount of correspondence," said Secretary Gary Sharp. "Each one of us pored through each letter, each comment, each community survey and took all that to heart."

Approved with the original recommendations was an extension of a "grandfathering" period from two-to-five years, something many parents had asked for so that families and friendships not be split up or because students did not want to leave their current school.

Students who reside in Independence Green and Windemere apartments also will be shifted from Longacre to Hillside — unless parents opt to keep them at their current school.

"I'm glad we're doing the five-year grandfathering," said Vice President Linda Enberg.

Safety valve

Several board members and school officials lauded an addition to create a committee of parents, principals, administrators and a transportation supervisor to monitor "ongoing enrollment and boundary issues."

"Our safety valve is the establishment of this committee, that we'll be reviewing this every year," said Trustee Cathy Webb. "The beauty of this recommendation is this safety valve."

Also, a partnering plan would be in place. That would result in the reassignment of new students to another school in the event classes are overcrowded.

"I'm happy that they responded to what appeared to be an overcrowding concern developing at Longacre," said Bill Smith, that school's principal, following the decision. "... The trend is that we are growing larger, and I just felt the response of our school community was we needed to do something now, not at a later date."

"It was democracy in action," said Maxfield, referring to the deliberate process taken to decide the issue. "There was give and take, people had concerns and shared them."

"And while Section 8 people preferred to stay at one school, they said 'We understand' that they will either attend Forest or Hillside under the new boundary plan."

Holocaust Memorial Center hosts "A Past in Hiding" author

The Holocaust Memorial Center hosts an evening with professor Mark Roseman, author of *A Past in Hiding: Memory and Survival in Nazi Germany*.



Mark Roseman

Maple at Drake in West Bloomfield.

A book signing will follow the discussion. No reservations are necessary and admission is free.

With *A Past in Hiding*, Roseman reconstructs the odyssey of Marianne Strauss, a sheltered daughter of well-to-do German Jews at the outbreak of World War II.

A detective story, love story and a story of courage under the harshest conditions, *A Past in Hiding* relates the transformation of this ordinary girl — concerned with studies, friends and romance — into a woman of ingenuity and daring who managed to survive in Nazi Germany for two years without papers or ration cards. Roseman offers an unprecedented look at daily life in the Third Reich.

For more information or advance book sales, call (248) 681-0840.

aspects of 20th century German history. He lives in Birmingham, England.

The event, the first in this year's series of HMC lectures, is set for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, in room 332 of the Jewish Community Center,

City to honor Detroit 300, but will Archer attend?

Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer himself might attend Monday night's Farmington City Council meeting to receive a proclamation from the suburban municipality, honoring Detroit's 300th birthday.

A spokeswoman for Farmington City Manager Frank Lauhoff said the mayor was invited, but as of late Friday afternoon "we're not sure" if he'd attend.

Farmington would be the first southeast Michigan city to so honor Detroit's birthday, she said.

The meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. at Farmington City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street.

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