

Board to discuss Schools of Choice issue

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.homecomm.net

The Farmington Public School Board will conduct its annual discussion on Interdistrict Schools of Choice at 6:30 p.m. March 19.

Each year the board makes a decision regarding the acceptance of non-resident students. Public input is welcome at the pre-meeting held before the regular board meeting at 7:30 p.m. Pre-meetings aren't televised.

"In the past, Farmington Public Schools' Board of Education has decided not to participate in Interdistrict Schools of Choice after hearing comments from interested citizens," according to a release prepared by Diane Baumann, director of school/community relations.

Michigan law allows school boards to decide whether they will accept students who live

outside the local school district boundaries but within the Intermediate School District boundaries or those students who reside in surrounding school districts but are part of another Intermediate School District.

Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield will recommend that board members opt out again for the 2002-2003 school year.

"I am recommending they don't," Maxfield said. "I don't think the board feels any compelling argument to do it."

He also cited the complication of new bookkeeping that will be required when the district begins its shared time programming with Our Lady of Sorrows School.

However, the following year Maxfield said he will ask the board to consider interdistrict enrollment. About 20 of 28 school districts in the Oakland

Schools Intermediate District participate.

"It may be time to jump on the bandwagon," Maxfield said. "Southfield picked up 400 students this year. You can pick the slots, this many of this grade. You could say you have 'x' number of slots based on some projections. You have to have room."

The Royal Oak School District was one of the first to participate in the interdistrict plan after it began to experience declining enrollment, Maxfield said.

Under this plan, no tuition is charged. It brings the foundation allowance for the child from his or her home district, Maxfield explained.

About four years ago, people who came to the Farmington public hearing had strong feelings against participation with worries class sizes would go up, Maxfield said. Since then, the number of people who attend has

declined. Last year, two people with students in the Clarenceville School District attended and expressed support for the idea, Maxfield said.

State law no longer requires districts to report to the Michigan Department of Education whether or not they are going to participate, said Gail Braverman, communications director for the Lansing-based Michigan Association of School Boards.

"More districts are participating," said Brad Banasik, legal counsel for MASA. "It all comes down to competition."

Districts who do participate may come out ahead in the student enrollment count, Banasik said.

Michigan law regarding interdistrict schools of choice took effect in 1996, he said.

Some students pay tuition
There are circumstances now

when non-resident students who live outside the district can attend Farmington Public Schools, according to Donna Reuter, a Farmington Schools pupil accounting technician. Tuition rates are determined by the school board annually.

The following categories of students are eligible to attend Farmington Schools upon payment of tuition:

■ A child of a Farmington School district employee, unless restrictions are imposed in order to maintain student/teacher ratios as by the administration or by special education rules, if applicable. Employees pay tuition through payroll deduction.

■ A child of any person who is either moving into the district or who is building a home in the district. The move-in date must be within the semester of enrollment.

■ A student in his senior year who has completed his or her junior year in Farmington Public Schools and whose parents or guardian have moved from the district.

Tuition is calculated on the number of instructional days in the Farmington Public Schools calendar for the school year.

The per semester fee for non-resident students in attendance on Fall Count day is \$1,275 for elementary and \$1,660 for secondary.

The per semester fee for non-resident students not released or starting after February Count is \$4,933.50 for elementary and \$5,635 for secondary.

The per semester fee for non-resident students starting after Fall count is \$3,947 for elementary and \$4,428 for secondary.

Students to attend event

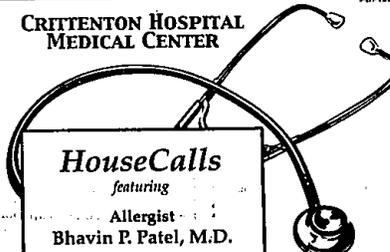
Marketing students from Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington High Schools will be participating in an International Business Conference at Walsh College on March 14th. Corporate executives will share their culturally diverse business experiences from Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

University students will also share their profiles and participate in a panel discussion. Students will not only learn about conducting business in a cultur-

ally diverse world, but also be exposed to, motivational and goal setting techniques and international careers.

The following speakers will be featured: Mr. Cedric McSween Sr., Premier Solutions, LLC.; Douglas Greas, Visteon Corporation, London, England; Izumi Suzuki and Steve Meyers, Suzuki, Meyers & Associates, Tokyo, Japan; Leith and Linda Michel, International Careers; Justin Golden, AIESEC, Panel Moderator.

**CRITTENTON HOSPITAL
MEDICAL CENTER**



HouseCalls
featuring

Allergist
Bhavin P. Patel, M.D.
on
**Asthma and Allergies -
The One Airway Concept**
Tuesday, March 19
7-8:30 p.m.
at the hospital

Please call Physician Referral to register by March 15 for this free program at
1-888-90-4HEALTH

**CRITTENTON HOSPITAL
MEDICAL CENTER**
Quality Care. Compassion. Service to You.
1101 West University Drive
Rochester, MI 48307
www.crittenton.com

KIT & CABOODLE



Now through March 23, you'll receive a special gift (a 100.00 value) with any Estée Lauder purchase of 35.00 or more. Discover color, fragrance, skincare, and makeup tools, plus a how-to book with the latest trends. And begin the season in style with:

- New Color Intensity Microline Powder Eyeshadows in Sand Dallar, PeachShimmer, Fawn, and Apricot
- New Advanced Night Repair Eye Recovery Complex
- Full-size Pure Color Long Lasting Lipstick in Bois de Rose
 - Pure Color Gloss in Rhubarb
- New Re-Nutriv Intensive Lifting Hand Creme SPF 15
 - Intuition Eau de Parfum Spray
 - Golden Eyeshadow Brush
 - Pearly white clutch with inside mirror

One per customer, please, while supplies last, in Cosmetics.



THE SOMERSET COLLECTION 348 643.3300
NEWYORK.NEWMARKUS.COM

**5.05% for 7 Years, or
5.00% for 5 Years***

**Guaranteed by MetLife®
Tax-Deferred****

The MetLife Asset Accumulating Annuity* (MetLife AAA®) is a single-payment, fixed-rate deferred annuity that can help you secure your retirement income goals. It provides guaranteed growth, with no market risk. And your earnings will be tax-deferred, so they'll work harder for you. The MetLife AAA also provides a wide array of income options when you're ready to retire, including income for life.

To find out more, contact your MetLife Financial Services representative today.

Martin Klein, CLU, ChFC, CFP
Financial Planner
60 W. Big Beaver Road, Suite 400
Troy, MI 48064
248-528-0022

* Rate as of 02/11/01. Rate subject to change daily. Not available in NJ, OR or SC.
** There is no additional tax advantage to funding an IRA or 401(k) with an annuity. Withdrawals are subject to Federal income tax. A 10% Federal tax penalty generally applies to withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2.
The MetLife AAA® has early withdrawal charges of 7% or less (with exceptions) and terms for keeping it in force. However, no early withdrawal charge applies during the final calendar month of the interest guarantee period. Please call for complete details.
The MetLife AAA is guaranteed by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, NY. It is not FDIC insured, or guaranteed by MetLife Bank.

have you met life today?™

MetLife® Financial Services

A Division of
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, NY 10101
248.6868686 (Comp 1992) (04) (04) (05) (05) (05)