SHARED

FROM PAGE AT

FEOMPAGE AI shared time. This will keep operating costs down. Under the plan, three public school teachers would be hired under provisions of the Farmington Education Association, the teachers' union, to instruct OLS children in art, music and physical edu-cation. OLS teachers won't lose their jobs, Hurley said. "We may nove some people around," he added.

After about \$60,000 in start-up costs paid for by the public school district, FPS would real-ize about \$168,000 in revenue, secording to Paul Barber, direc

tor of fine arts.
OLS would realize an estimated \$150,000-\$200,000 in savings, which Watson wants to use to improve technology, library and science lab

improvements. Hurley has repeatedly said

Observer & Eccentric | Sunday, February 9, 2000

that those who oppose the parish's stance can leave. Parents who received tuition packages Jan. 31, read:
'Student enrollment will be judged on an individual basis.' Along with factors considered like parish participation, past scholastic and citizenship records, Watson wrote in bold type, 'parental support of school policies and cooperation with the administration.'
'Though this appeared for the first time in the tuition package, a similar statement has existed in the Parent/Student Handbook: 'Parents who cannot support the policies of the school community or do not display a positive role in the school community and be required to remove their children from the school.'
Following grade level meetings last fall which covered a variety of school topics, including shared time, some particularly vocal parents received certified letters citing the hand-

book reference.
This has chilled the willing-ness of some parents to speak out against the proposal, which some fear would interfere with the religious component of their children's cleation. Parent Jim Wagner, who attended OIA's as chilld, said he and his wife plan to send their four children claewhere met year. They are looking for a new school and possibly a new parish. Wagner counted at least 136 OIA's familier at a recent open house at St. Philain recent open house at St. Pablan School.

School.
About 8-10 families have left
OLS School because of the
shared time issue, Hurley said.

TUITION AND TEACHERS

Church officials are touting the financial benefits of a shared time proposal. The Feb. 2 OLS bulletin mentioned the completion of a new faculty compensation plan. To help parents prepare, the article list-

ed two tuition scenarios.

For the 2003-2004 school year, the base tuition rate (single student) will increase by 12 percent to \$3,300. If shared time is implemented, tuition ill increase 7 percent to

\$3,150. In the same bulletin, Hurley includes a a letter from Monsignor John Quinn, director of the Department of Education for the Archidiocest of Detroit. Quinn wrote his aupport for shared time and encouraged Parmington Public School Board members to support it.

School Board members to sup-port it.

Shared time is being used by more than one-third of the Catholic Schools in the Archidocese, Quinn said.

"By accessing shared time programs, many Catholic schools are able to enrich the curriculum by offering art, music, computer education and physical education," Quinn said. "Shared time programs do not change or alter in any way

the distinctive mission of a Catholic school." Rather than taking a survey about shared time, Our Lady of Sorrows elergy and school offi-cials are gauging support for proposed shared time programs by distributing formatted response Carlie.

proposes anared time programs by distributing formatted response cards. Watson said last week he was pleased with the response but wouldn't eithe the amount received. I'm not prepared to give a number right now, Watson said. "Responses are still coming it."

Watson will give a breakdown of the responses which aspecifically represent parents who have children in OLS School and those who don't, if the board asks.

Tiundreds of people have indicated in a formal way that they support our effort," Hurley said. He couldn't eithe the number of responses which came

ber of responses which came specifically from OLS School parents and referred that ques-tion to Watson.

DISTRICT VIEW

"I don't quite know what to expect," said Farmington Public School Superintendent Bob Maxifield of the Feb. 11 meeting. "I'm sure there will be lots of questions. It's controversial for some and important for every-one."

one."
It's time for both parties to make a decision and "get on with it," Maxifeld said.
Maxifeld told OLS school

Mixifield told OLS school parents last spring that he wanted to see a strong level of support (more then 80 percent). Parents have saked how he can measure that without an actual vote.

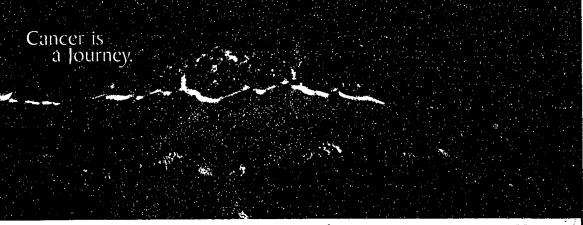
Hurley has severely criticized a privately funded survey by parishioner Randy Bergeron which indicated nonsupport, calling it unauthorized. Of 657 ballots, 123 indicated non-suport for shared time and 42 port for shared time and 62 supported it.

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