

Outlook Dim on New Teacher Contract

Harrison States Hope For Quick Agreement

By Sue Shaughnessy
Editor

A spokesman for the Farmington Education Association last week termed the possibility of signing a master contract between the teachers and the Board of

ambiguous and just properly spelled out."

A teacher is quoted in the October issue of the newsletter saying "I think it is perfectly disgusting for teachers, who are responsible for training future leaders of the nation, to have to beg for financial, health and security benefits which are now taken for granted by even the least educated of factory workers."

All this simply adds up to the feeling of the teachers that they will not be rushed into anything this year.

Major goals of the teachers for this year's contract are:

- A salary schedule of "10 or fewer" steps over the same number of years. The current schedule for M.A. teachers is 13 steps over 15 years.

• Improved salaries at the upper end of the scale.

• A modification of the policy of docking teachers who must leave school early for medical or emergency reasons.

• Compulsory arbitration for grievances.

• Hospital-medical insurance fully paid by the school district. The district now pays half.

• Life insurance.

• A weather policy change whereby, when schools are closed in severe weather, teachers would not be required to report.

On April 6, the Board presented a contract for negotiation. The FEA stated that 19

Harrison Retained By Board

Superintendent of Schools Gerald V. Harrison will be retained by the Board of Education as a consultant if negotiations between the Board and the FEA continue after June 30.

Harrison, who is the Board's principal negotiator, retires as Superintendent at the end of the month.

On May 22 about 100 members of the Farmington Education Association appeared at the Board of Education meeting and asked: "If negotiations extend beyond June 30 who will represent the Board?"

The Board replied by letter to the FEA that Harrison would be retained as a consultant. The Board also added that none of the trustees would attend the negotiating sessions.

At the time of the Board meeting, President Richard H. Peters told the FEA that a negotiation team would represent the Board after June 30 if necessary, but that he was not prepared at that time to name its members.

Education before the end of the current school year as "done."

Superintendent of Schools Gerald V. Harrison told the Enterprise & Observer that he "hoped" a master contract could be agreed upon and thought that there was "still a possibility."

"We have scheduled many negotiation sessions," Harrison commented, "and with a great deal of hard work I think a contract can be agreed upon" by the time school closes.

However, the most recent "Professional Negotiation Report," dated June 1 and sent to FEA members by C.B. Shubridge, chairman of the FEA team, asserts that "negotiation progress is still very slow and tedious. It is obvious we will be required to negotiate at a minimum until the 30th of June."

In negotiating for a new contract the FEA has consistently repeated that it would not "tolerate tactical delays similar to those of last year's bargaining session."

Last year's contract was ratified by the teachers by a 50-vote margin just before the end of the school year last June. Many of the teachers have been outspoken concerning what they consider to be a poor contract.

In November, the FEA newsletter asserted that "Our present contract, which we hastily accepted last June, has many poor features and a lot of things that are vague."

Wins Certificate

Specialist Four Richard E. Lewitt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack E. Lewitt, 23848 Wesley Drive, Farmington, has been presented with a safe driving certificate for being named driver of the month for the U.S. Army Terminal Command at Bremerhaven, Germany. He is a 1963 graduate of Farmington High School.

Board Hopefuls To Speak

Area residents will have an opportunity to hear and question candidates for the Farmington District School Board at the regular monthly meeting of the Farmington Democratic Club, Wednesday evening, June 7, at the City National Bank, 10 Mile at Grand Lake Rd.

The program involving the school board candidates will start at approximately 8:15 p.m., according to Farmington Democratic Club chairman Gerald Freedman.

"We have invited all six candidates to make a brief presentation on their qualifications and programs and to answer questions from the floor," Freedman said.

"The Democratic Club is happy to offer this annual public service so that voters can become acquainted with the candidates for the important Board of Education posts.

"When we started these programs several years ago we were about the only group in the community to offer a public forum for school board candidates.

In the business meeting which will precede the school board discussion Farmington Democrats will make final plans to participate in the Saturday, June 10 "Victory in '68" workshop.

The workshop, jointly sponsored by the 18th and 19th Congressional District Democratic Organizations and the Oakland County Democratic Committee, will be held in the Oakland County Board of Supervisors Auditorium, Telegraph Rd. near East Elizabeth Lake Rd. in Pontiac.

Youth Hit In Xway Accident

An auto-pedestrian accident on I-96 expressway was reported in Farmington Township Sunday evening.

James H. Lock, 17, 28071 Ridgebrook, was struck by a car when he ran across the roadway.

Police said that Lock was apparently blithering when he darted into the traffic lanes and was struck by an automobile driven by Robert L. Wenzel, 19148 Greenwald, Southfield.

"An eye witness said that Wenzel could not stop in time to avoid the accident. He was not held by township police.

Lock is currently in Botsford General Hospital, suffering a broken leg, a broken arm and a slight concussion, according to the police.

Weekend Accident Toll High

Farmington Township streets suffered a series of personal injury accidents this past weekend.

On June 2, Frederick Burke, 28221 W. 11 Mile Rd., was turning his stake truck into his driveway on 11 Mile when he struck a motorcycle driven by John Clark, 17, 24158 Elizabeth Ct. According to the police, Clark had been attempting to pass Burke's truck when the accident occurred.

The cyclist was taken to Botsford General Hospital, where he was later released, suffering minor injuries.

The following day, Donald

Oberson, 35, of 8830 Dixie, Redford Township, was driving south on Halsted near Grand River when he lost control of his car. The vehicle overturned in a ditch at roadside.

Oberson is still recuperating at Botsford General.

In a minor mishap, Linton P. Banwell, 20, 31129 Sturbridge, swerved to avoid a truck backing out of a driveway at Sturbridge at Springvale, when bicyclist Jeffrey Geraci, 6, 31160 Sturbridge, crashed into the rear of Banwell's car.

Jeffrey was taken to Botsford General and released.



WHITE FOX AND Big Running Deer held forth at the Farmington YMCA's Indian Guide Pow-wow at Camp Nissakone in Okemos last weekend. White Fox (second from left) is John Starkey, 28830 Highmeadow who is the Farmington Federation's chief. At his left is his son, Red Horse (Don), and to his right are Big Running Deer (Bill Lowrey, 28427 Thorny Brae), who serves as medicine man, and his son, Little Running Deer (Mikky). Over 200 big and little braves took part in the Pow-wow, one of the major annual events for the Indian Guides. The group is for fathers and elementary school-age sons in the Farmington area.

FUTURE AREA ISSUE! Citizens' Council Breaks with Board

The Farmington Township Citizens' Council for Community Development has issued a statement disassociating itself from the Township officials on the question of a study about the development of the entire 36-square mile area.

At the same time, however, the Council expressed the opinion that it was also separate from the study group involved and did not intend to become involved in the hassle over when the study should be conducted.

The Council noted that the statement was issued regarding the recent events and publicity connected with the consolidation study being carried out by the Future Farmington Area Study Committee.

Members of the study committee are representatives of the League of Women Voters, the Jaycees and the Board of Commerce's work has been tabled until after the Oct. 23 incorporation vote in Farmington Township. The refusal of the Township Board to allocate any funds to participate in a Michigan State University study and the subsequent withdrawal of the MSU Institute for Community Development upon a "mutually satisfactory agreement" in the future caused the postponement.

The study, as proposed, would have explored the various avenues open for development and growth of the area. The proponents of the study emphasized time and again that consolidation of the city and township was only one of many possibilities.

However, in the popular mind consolidation became linked to the study movement and the Township officials stated that consolidation would be just as applicable after the Oct. 23 election as before.

In its statement, the Council, which has filed incorporation petitions for most of the Township, asserted: "The Township officials do not speak for the Council either as to the incorporation movement or the consolidation issue. While the Council welcomes the support of our elected Township officials as to the citizens' incorporation movement, the Council also welcomes the support of all citizens interested in their own and the Township's welfare."

"The Council is in favor of a study being made on the issue of consolidation at the appropriate time. Two members of the Council have regularly attended the meetings of the study committee and carried it back to the Council. "These representatives in



Sgt. Glenn Harding of the City of Farmington's Police Department checks the tail light on 11-year-old Bob Witt's bike at the Bike Rodeo sponsored by the Farmington Jaycees Saturday. Winners in the community-wide event were: Linda Dembeck, best decorated bicycle; 11 and 12

Council Action

The following action was taken at Monday night's meeting of the Farmington City Council:

Vacate Street
Astor Street, from Hawthorne east to the city limits, was vacated. This action followed similar steps taken by the Farmington Township Board of Trustees concerning the vacation of the township's portion of Astor St., which runs from Cora west to the township limits.

Appoint Chairman
Arnold McGovern, newly-elected American Legion Post Commander, was named Chairman of United Nations Day observances. The post of UN Day Chairman has traditionally gone to the American Legion Post Commander.

Accept Bids
Bids on the purchase of gasoline for city vehicles, a mower and tractor for the Department of Public Works, plastic rubbish bags and ambulance service were approved.

Adopt Resolution
A resolution honoring the services of W. Allen Nelson, former City Planning Commissioner who died last week, was passed. The resolution cited Nelson for his service and devotion to the community, noting his contributions of time and energy to various local committees.

Eight Area Students Receive FEA Grants

Michael Bensinger and Margaret Brown have been awarded beginning scholarships by the Farmington Education Association.

Continuing scholarship have been awarded by the FEA to Farmington graduates Gayle Humm, Sharon Saja, Richard Belanger, Catherine Soutlianian and Jerec Bachelor.

Bensinger is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Bensinger, 3330 Cambourse, Birmingham. He is a senior at North Farmington High School and plans to attend Western Michigan University.

Mrs. Brown is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown, 23215 Violet. A senior at Farmington High, she plans to attend Central Michigan University and major in

In Mediterranean
Fireman Apprentice Ronald R. Clark, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorne R. Clark of 34542 Fendt Ave., Farmington, is in the Mediterranean aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Saratoga.

Joins Honorary
Stephen J. Rossiter, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Rossiter of 28335 Kendall Road, Farmington, is one of 13 members of Blue Key, a national men's activities honorary at Michigan State University. Rossiter is a junior majoring in social sciences.



THE SHOVEL on the scene marks the official ground breaking of the new civic center in Farmington. (Left to right) Mrs. Johnston, Danny Pevos, Dr. Ira Altshuler, Sharon Agee, Mrs. Weisman, Dr. Weissman (with foot on shovel) assisted by Livonia Council President Peter Ventura.

Contracts Almost Complete

In addition to the sessions with the teachers, the Farmington Board of Education is currently negotiating three of the master contracts for the 1968-69 school year.

The other groups represent the school bus drivers, the secretaries and the maintenance workers.

Superintendent Gerald V. Harrison, who is the Board's principal negotiator with each group, told The Enterprise & Observer that a verbal agreement had been reached with the bus drivers, but that neither the driver's organization nor the Board had acted upon the agreement.

He added that a contract seemed near with the other two organizations and would be completed "hopefully by July 1."

proposal called for the same salary schedule as is presently in effect.

Negotiations for the contract actually began in February. Since that time only "two or three" articles have actually been agreed upon by the two teams.

Students!

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