

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Wednesday, September 12, 1973

15¢ a Copy



CHILDREN PICKETED several elementary schools beginning Friday, as the Farmington teacher strike went into its fourth day. David Wright, 9, and Doreen Obendorf, 12, were among the demonstrators at William Grace Elementary. (Photo by Ralph Evert)

Parents Picket Teacher Strike Talks Continue

By DAN McCOSH

Parents and students kept out of class by the Farmington teachers' strike became noticeably more active as the walkout entered its seventh day this week.

Negotiators continued to meet, sometimes for 18-hour stretches, but by Tuesday morning no settlement had been reached.

The two issues which prompted the walkout, class size "caps" and salaries, remain the issues being negotiated.

Last offer by the board of education included an overall increase of 5.6 per cent, plus seniority increments, and a "cap" of 33 in the elementary grades, with no ceiling on classes in the high schools.

Salary negotiations are centering on the second year of the two-year contract being negotiated, according to FEA executive secretary Roger Allen.

Indications from several sources are that negotiators are near agreement on salary, at least for the first year.

"We have offered to go back on a one-year contract, although, frankly, it

isn't something the teachers really want," Allen said. Still outstanding is the "class size issue."

Teachers are asking for a maximum class size of approximately 30 students - the administration has offered 33 in the elementary grades only.

The offer of the administration represents a shift from its earlier position of "no cap." Teachers feel some cap is necessary in the secondary level, and the offer is still too high in the lower elementary grades, according to Allen.

The last two negotiating sessions have been conducted downtown in the offices of William Ellman, of the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

Another negotiation session was scheduled Tuesday afternoon.

Teacher pickets increased noticeably Monday, and they were joined at several schools by parents with their children protesting the closing of the schools.

Farmington football teams were also out protesting the disruption of football practice (see story on sports pages).

One major effect of the strike was to temporarily close the three Catholic schools in Farmington - Our Lady of Mercy High, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Fabian. All three depend on Farmington district buses to transport their students.

Monday, the Catholic schools opened, under a special arrangement with the Farmington Board of Education. Funding for the extra service was not included in the 1973-74 budget, according to Business Manager William Prisk.

The Board of Education held an "emergency session" Monday, but took no action. The board has authorized newspaper ads outlining their last contract offer.

"We regret that the school children of this community have been penalized by this work stoppage, called by the union while no negotiations are still in progress. Many school districts have conducted school while continuing to negotiate," was the board's statement in one of the ads.

Star Cutter Property Sold

The 23-acre parcel of industrial property near Shawnee and Grand River, formerly owned by the Star Cutter Co., has been sold to the White Motor Co., headquartered in Cleveland, the Enterprise and Observer has learned.

White Motors, a truck manufacturer, plans an engineering research center at the site.

Details of the sale were not available at press time.

Star Cutter was once the biggest single industrial employer in the area. The local operation was closed down several years ago.

Schools Unaffected

Council Delays Tax Challenge

By DAN McCOSH

Earl Oppert, mayor, twice removed of the Farmington Hills Council, succeeded Monday in stalling a lawsuit which Farmington school board members said would have "closed the schools in February."

Oppert, after a long mayoralty, is stepping down due to the absence of Mayor Robert McConnell and Mayor Pro-Tem Frederick Lichtman, succeeded by a narrow 3-2 margin in deterring the council from immediately suing the district to eliminate a 1.4 mill tax recently levied by the schools.

Instead, the council directed the city attorney to confer with the school attorney to find the best way to bring the case to court without jeopardizing the 1973-74 school revenue.

William Orman and Joan Dudley voted against Oppert's motion, saying they wanted to follow the advice of City Attorney Joseph Brennan to bring suit against the district, asking for a declaratory judgment on the constitutionality of the tax.

At issue was the school board's recent decision to levy 1.2 mills which formerly went to Farmington Township for school expenses.

The new tax was allocated

in April by the Oakland County Tax Allocation Board.

In computing the 1973-74 levy, the board used the 1.2 mills, added 0.5 mills voted but not yet levied, and deducted one mill from the debt retirement fund.

The result was an 0.7 mill increase for the district.

Because of the taxing policies of Oakland County, the 1.4 mills of the new tax was levied only in Farmington, and Farmington Hills - the one square mile of West Bloomfield is 1.4 mills lower.

This "variable millage" was called "unconstitutional" by Brennan, and he advised the board "should

they wish to pursue the matter," to:

•Direct the clerk to refuse to certify 1.4 mills of the school tax to Oakland County.

•File a suit, naming the school district as a defendant, to get a court ruling on the question.

Five members of the Farmington School Board, Business Manager William Prisk, and Attorney Robert Kelly argued the school's position before the council.

Prisk was fearful the council's action would jeopardize the operating loan due to be approved the next evening (Tuesday). Without the loan,

he added "schools would be closed in February."

When it was pointed out only 1.4 mills would be affected, he said while schools would not close, about \$500,000 of the school budget would be affected.

Attorney Kelly added that if the clerk refused to certify the tax roll, both he and the council could be subject to criminal action.

Richard Frankel, former school board member, apparently gave the most forceful argument when he said, "One unit of government has no business getting involved in the business of another."

New Synagogue Opens Doors

Adas Shalom Synagogue, 13 Mile and Middle Belt Rd., Farmington, will dedicate the 83,000-square foot religious complex next weekend, Sept. 14-15.

The three-day celebration will begin with the shabbat and young leader's tribute at 6 p.m., Friday and the shabbat dinner at 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Jeffrey Tigay, professor of Bible, University of Pennsylvania, as guest speaker.

Dr. Tigay is one of more than a dozen young religious leaders who were at one time members of the synagogue who will be participating in the celebration.

The weekend events will be highlighted by the appearance of Samuel Dash, chief counsel for the U.S. Senate Watergate Inquiry Committee, as banquet speaker on Sunday evening, Sept. 16.

Rabbi Jacob Segal, spiritual leader of the synagogue since 1946 when it was formed to serve the Jewish community in northwest Detroit, says Dr. Dash will speak on how to build leadership rather than on the Senate hearings.

Services at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 15 will be conducted by a number of the returning youthful leaders: Rabbi Leon Waldman of Temple Beth El, Fairfield, Conn.; Barbara Goldsmith Levin, former assistant director of the American Assn. for Jewish Education and now a staff member at Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Cantor Robert Shapiro, musical director of Temple B'nai Israel, Toledo; Paul Schneider and Daniel Shevitz, senior rabbinical students of the Jewish Theological Sem-

inary; and Earl Berris, student at the Cantors Institute. Synagogue officers and the board of trustees will be installed at this service.

Dr. Max Arzt, vice chan-

cellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, will be the guest speaker at the cornerstone laying at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

The big day is here and the first session of the Observer Newspapers publicity and press relations seminar will take place tonight (Wednesday) in the new Observer plant, 30251 Schoolcraft Road in Livonia.

For those who aren't familiar with the location, the Observer building is located on Schoolcraft Road at the intersection with Levan.

The first annual seminar is limited to 150 registrants, a fact well publicized during the past month in promotion stories telling of the event.

There are three large conference rooms available at the Observer plant but total capacity is 150.

All of which means many more registration blanks

were received than could be handled. Notes of regret have been sent to all sending in blanks after the quota was reached. All were told the Observer editorial staff is studying the possibility of a third session of the 1973 seminar in late October or early November.

The first of this year's scheduled two sessions is slated tonight and the second will be held a week from tonight on Wednesday, Sept. 19. Each gathering will open at 8 p.m. with a meeting of all registrants in the cafeteria.

After a welcome address, the group will be divided into three segments. One will meet in the cafeteria, a second in the small conference room and the third will adjourn to the large conference room.

Inasmuch as the evening has been divided into three 30-minute panels, the registrants will move from room to room to attend the various meetings.

One will be devoted to a discussion of photographs which are acceptable for use and which ones aren't. Chief Photographer Bob Woodring and News Editor Tim Richard will explain the Observer policies in regard to photo assignments and also show examples of pictures, good, bad, and indifferent.

A second panel will be conducted by Women's and Church Editor Margaret Miller and Southfield Women's Editor Loraine McClish along with Sports Editor Tom Donoghue, Entertainment Editor Janis Williams and Food Editor Elmer Graham.

Each will explain the needs of his or her department and Mrs. Miller and Mrs. McClish will devote time to telling how items are handled in the respective departments.

The third panel will be directed by Executive Editor R.T. Thompson and Assistant News Editor Fred DeLano. The Sept. 19 program will be highlighted by the appearances of Southfield Editor Emory Daniels, Redford Editor Charles Varkoly and Farmington Editor Daniel McCosh.

Refreshments will be available in the cafeteria during the breaks between the individual segments.

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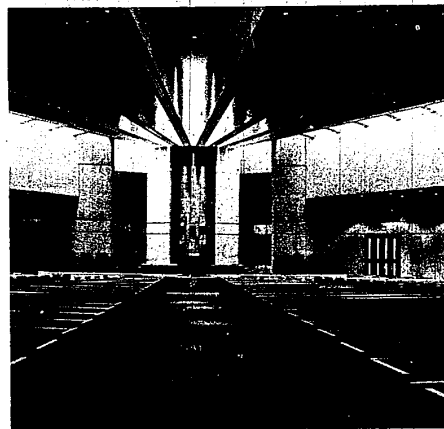
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THE MAIN SANCTUARY of Adas Shalom Synagogue will be the setting for the dedication services to be held next weekend. The load bearing walls are cast-in-place concrete with both the exterior and interior surfaces chiseled to a rough vertical texture. There is permanent seating for 1,000 in the sanctuary. Another 400 persons can be seated on a raised platform and 1,400 additional in the social hall.

Tips For Club Public Relations Officers To Be Given At Seminar

what's inside

Cville teachers voting on pact..... Page 7A

Prep football games canceled..... Page 1C

Amusements 8, 9B
Classified Ads 6-8C, Sec. D
Community Calendar 4C
Deaths 4C
Editorial 4C

Home and Garden 11-13B
Observing Life 1-7B
Readers' Forum 4A
Sports 1-3C
Turf Tips 2C