

Board rejects standing citizens committee idea

By SUSAN AVERILL

While basically agreeing that resident input toward school board decisions is good, the Farmington board of education decided against the establishment of a standing citizens committee.

The board based its decision on the experience of previous boards which had tried the same form of resident input, only to be requested by the same to dissolve the committee.

"Unless such a committee is given

specific guidelines and a specific task, it will end up coming back to us, saying 'please dissolve us until you get us something to do,'" said Board President Gary L. Lichtman.

If the resident's committee turns from passively awaiting board direction and decides it has to function in some area, it will start to stick its nose into what it has no business knowing, he said.

CONSIDERATION of the committee was undertaken when a group of parents became concerned with lack of communication between the board and the community on the closing of Bond Elementary School. Parents felt they hadn't been sufficiently forewarned. The board promised to consider a committee to provide two-way

input from the community to the board and back again.

Mailings, newsletters, newspapers and public inquiry during regular board meetings provided an adequate forum for the expression of public and private opinion, Lichtman said.

A committee to determine the board's policy toward donations given by private individuals to certain schools rather than the entire school district was formed.

According to state law, any items donated to any school in a district become the property of the entire district, Lichtman said.

"I'm not talking about the dollars. I'm talking about the hard goods," he said.

Approval of April 29 as the date of the special millage election was postponed to the March 4 meeting so that

written confirmation of the date could be obtained from the Oakland County election commission.

TWO PROGRAMS, including Youth Assistance and Adult Education have been relocated to Bond Elementary School.

"Both of these groups are there with the clear understanding that they are tenants on a day-to-day basis only, and may be required to move to other locations without any prior notice," Business Manager William C. Prisk said.

Youth Assistance was moved from Cloverdale School because of lack of space for a shower and whirlpool necessary for the severely mentally impaired (SMI) program.

Adult Education was also moved because of lack of space. Instead of the requested two portable classroom

units, the program was given four rooms at Bond.

Bond Elementary presently saves the district nearly \$6,000 in storage for the operations department, provides office space for the Central Michigan student teacher coordinators, the Farmington Youth Assistance program, the adult education daytime program and a workroom for the district's art consultants.

The board gave the go-ahead to

SEMTA's request for parking facilities for their "park your car and ride the bus to Detroit" plan.

"TO COOPERATE, we have offered the use of a portion of the Farmington Junior High School parking lot on School Street and Grand River, and the parking lot on Shawwassee at Farmington Road if started, the plan is scheduled to be operative in 90 days," Prisk said.

Homeowners surveying Farmington

FARMINGTON HILLS — The Council of Homeowners Association is conducting a survey which may provide information on resident attitudes for both the city and school boards.

The 14-question poll is being circulated to residents through homeowners associations in the city.

Planned residential development (PRD) zoning designation, school board and city items are included on the questionnaire.

The PRD combines multiple and single-family housing in a large development.

PRD QUESTIONS deal with proximity of such developments to an existing subdivisions, the amount of the land within the city that such developments should occupy, and the type of terrain that would be most appropriate for that type of development.

Residents also are asked to indicate whether they are satisfied with the activity of the school board, the effectiveness of the teachers, teacher attitudes and classroom discipline.

Teacher pay and the number of administrators that the district should employ are also questions included on the poll.

Residents are asked if they would support a millage increase.

OTHER QUESTIONS ask if the elected city officials should be limited to two terms and if city projects costing more than \$100,000 should be approved by voters.

Richard Maicki, council of homeowners chairman, said that the

Council eyes statue offer

FARMINGTON HILLS — The city council is considering the acquisition of a bronze statue.

The statue, offered to the city as a gift by its owner Dr. Allen Ziegler, is the work of Harriet Prismuth, a student of Rodin.

group wants to have the questionnaires returned within 30 days.

When the results are compiled they will be circulated to the city council, planning commission and school board.

Maicki asks that the completed questionnaires be returned in the offices of the resident's homeowners association or the homeowners council at Box 518, Farmington Hills 48167.

The Botsford Hospital physician acquired the statue, a seven-foot nude, from the estate of W. Fisher of the Fisher Body family.

Fisher had commissioned the statue, titled *Homoeroseque* in 1929.

JAN DOLAN, city council member who investigated the donation, said that the statue was intended for use with a fountain.

She said the library board is interested in acquiring it for use at its Farmington Hills branch on Twelve Mile Road.

The board may seek a grant from the Michigan Council of the Arts to properly install the statue if the city accepts it, she said.

Dr. Ziegler reports the figure is worth \$35,000.

The council is expected to continue to study the offer.

Currently, the statue is at Dr. Ziegler's Southfield home.

The council is seeking estimates of moving costs.

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