

Library, schools look at forming partnership

By Greg Kowalski
Eccentric Staff Writer

At a "history making meeting," the Bloomfield Hills school board and Bloomfield Township Public Library Board took the first step to sharing services to benefit students Tuesday.

The school and the library boards held a joint meeting to discuss the concept, although just what it will entail, and how it can be done, remains to be seen.

Library Board President Judy Lindstrom used the historic reference, as the two boards had never met together before.

But they share the same goal, she said, "to serve the children."

"We're pleased to begin this partnership," said Ingrid Day, president of the school board, also noting, "it's all about the children."

School Supt. Robert Glass gave an overview of the district's strategic plan. "We talk about partnerships," he said. "But we don't always know

where they will be."

But what type of partnership?

Library Director Karen Kotulis-Carter said the library might be able to provide material for specific homework assignments. The library also has access to a host of online databases and reference books that are available remotely 24 hours a day. And the library is open for study and research in the evenings and weekends when schools are closed.

The boards also received a presentation on the library's special education needs collection from Jen Taggart, Youth Services Department head. She showed a variety of items and devices to help special education students learn.

Still, questions remain.

The library is paid for by taxes on Bloomfield Township residents. The school district's boundaries, however, extend into West Bloomfield, Bloom-

field Hills and a part of Orchard Lake, whose residents pay taxes for their own libraries.

"The Bloomfield Hills Schools and the township overlap to some degree," resident Linda Ulrey said. "None of those pay taxes or a single penny of revenue."

Resident Isaac Barr said he also was concerned about the "complexities of taxation."

In the 1980s, the library issued student library cards, but discontinued it when other family members who were not entitled to full library access began using the cards.

Kotulis-Carter said the library is open to forming partnerships with other school districts. "We want to improve communications," she said.

Those issues will be taken up at the next joint meeting of the library and school board at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Gary Doyle Center in Bloomfield Township.