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take higher level math classes as a way of making sure students are challenged in the classroom, spokeswoman Liz Margolis said.

"Having a gifted and talented program is a long dis-

Ann Arbor and East Lodi Township, are toward academically gifted students.

Hope-Jackson said she's an advocate for gifted and talented programs because there is

Liz Cobbs can be reached at lcobbs@annarbornews.com or 734-994-6810.

BUS FROM A3

Only Brian Robb voted against resolution

Richardson and Mayor Pro Tem Trudy Swanson, both D-1st Ward, were absent.

The council approved the resolution to keep bus service in full in a 4-1 vote, with Robb voting against it.

Gawlas said many people in the city depend on the bus for transportation, and reducing the service would impact more people than cuts in other services - especially at a time when the price of gas continues to rise. "It's important for us to maintain the bus service," he said.

Nearly 578,000 people a

year board AATA buses in Ypsilanti to travel to jobs, stores and schools in Ann Arbor and nearby areas.

Robb said the city doesn't gain anything by committing to full payment now. Instead, it would lose bargaining power with AATA and job providers in the area to help the city, he said.

"AATA has not given us any direction," he said. "It sounds like a cheap campaign trick."

Schreiber dismissed that notion, saying it's part of the budgeting process. Pledging to keep bus service intact

strengthens the city's position in negotiations with other parties, he said.

"The residents need to know that we will maintain bus service," Schreiber said.

City Manager Ed Koryzno is scheduled to discuss funding the bus service with representatives from Eastern Michigan University, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and Washtenaw Community College this month.

Khalil E. Hachem can be reached at khachem@annarbornews.com or 734-482-3225.

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