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The Search 'Only Beginning' For A New Superintendent

By STEVE BARNABY

What will the Farmington school board be looking for in a search for a school superintendent?

What makes a good school superintendent? With the resignation of Dr. Roderick Smith, this will be the question facing the Farmington Board of Education in the coming months.

UNTIL THIS very important decision is made, the reins of command will be taken over by Marinus Van Aমেয়ে, 58, who has been with the school administration since 1957, first as the superintendent of instruction, and more recently as the deputy superintendent.

In an informal survey of four board members, the consensus seems to be that it will take a number of months before the selection can be made.

Board President Kenneth Perrin said the situation is "completely up in the air," but very soon the board will get together to map out criteria for the next man to fill the position as school superintendent. He explained that after the criteria are agreed upon by board members various organizations, including universities will be contacted for recommendations.

WILLIAM CORLISS, a board member who voted against accepting Smith's resignation, said the next man for the job must be innovative. "Personally, I am looking for a man who is able to command respect and cooperation of subordinate administrators. He must be open to innovative programs and able to scrap them if they don't work, without the fear of losing face," Corliss said. Kathryn Stirling, board

member, said that it is unlikely that a new administrator will be decided upon until June.

With the call for a cooling off period, Dr. Mervyn Ross said the issue shouldn't be discussed until the board gets its own house in order.

Ross is referring to the obvious split in board sentiment on the resignation of Smith at the Nov. 22 meeting of the board.

Ross, Corliss and Aldo Vagnozzi voted against Smith's resignation, with Corliss claiming that the resignation was forced rather than a mutual agreement, as Perrin had said.

OF THOSE members surveyed, all agreed that a look should be taken at Van Aমেয়ে for consideration as

"PERSONALLY, I am looking for a man who is able to command respect and cooperation of subordinate administrators. He must be open to innovative programs and able to scrap them if they don't work without the fear of losing face."

--William Corliss

permanent superintendent. "All of the board respects him and his abilities. He will certainly be a front-runner," Corliss said, adding that Van Aমেয়ে is an excellent administrator.

Mrs. Stirling added to the laudatory note by saying of Van Aমেয়ে, "We all have confidence in him."

Perrin said that although no commitment had been made to Van Aমেয়ে for the top job, Perrin assumes he would be among those considered.

ON HIS ROLE as acting superintendent, Van Aমেয়ে

resignation even to consider it. Prior to coming to the Farmington School District, Van Aমেয়ে served as an elementary and secondary principal, was a professor at Eastern Michigan University and worked as a principal in the Southfield School District.

He holds degrees from EMU, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. He also has a certificate from the University of Colorado.

Commentary

The resignation of Dr. Roderick Smith left an aftertaste of bewilderment for the public, mainly because of the way it was handled. Comment on the issue is in a column by Enterprise & Observer Editor Dan McCosh. Page 2A

We Get Letters

A suggestion on using schools for recreation, and a complaint from a resident on the condition of a street are part of the comments from our readers. Page 3A

Sex Hymn

That's what they're calling the new addition to the Anglican church hymnal in Canada, and our religion columnist quotes it in today's Church Section and adds some approving comments. See Religion Update. Page 5A

New Ideas

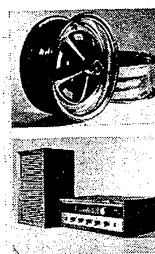
A Livonia church has a different sort of attraction for its holiday boutique, and a Farmington synagogue has a new different kind of menorah for Hanukah. Find both in story and picture in our Church Section. Pages 4, 5A

Metal Sculpture

Starting with chunks of metal, Schoolcraft students are learning to weld and then creating sculptures as shown on Page 10A

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If you like "things"...



the kind of things that most young people like... things like cameras and wheels and sound... then you'll enjoy making it a habit of reading the Observer. You'll find the things you like... at the price you want to pay!

Man Killed In Car Crash

A 37-year-old Farmington father was killed Thanksgiving eve in a traffic collision at Nine Mile and Hawthorne.

Dead was Gary E. Fernell, 30049 S. Stockton. His son, Brian, 12, suffered minor injuries.

Police said Fernell, traveling north on Hawthorne, failed to yield the right of way at Nine Mile and ran into the right side of a station wagon going west on Nine Mile.

Fernell's pickup then slid across the street and struck another pickup which was waiting to cross Nine Mile headed south. Fernell's truck then flipped over, and he was pinned beneath. Fernell was pronounced dead on arrival at Botsford General Hospital.

John Watt, 39, Ann Arbor, who was driving the station wagon along Nine Mile escaped unharmed.

The driver of the pickup waiting to cross, Jeanette Hayward, 19, of 21624 Middle Belt, Farmington, was injured slightly.



FATAL ACCIDENT — Gary E. Fernell, 30049 S. Stockton, was killed when his pickup truck flipped over in Farmington. (Evert photo)

Youth Brandishes Pistol At School

A 13-year-old juvenile charged with threatening a \$2,500 bond pending examination on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, according to Farmington Public Safety Director Ronald Holko.

Adults Earn Diplomas In Unusual Day Class

By STEVE BARNABY

Education can be fun. Just ask the students in Dale Luebke's high school class of 15 students between the ages of 20 and 50. "Education is so much better this time around. I feel more relaxed. They care what you learn," said one middle-aged housewife.

THIS SEEMS to be the majority opinion among those who have taken the step and gone back to school to get a high school diploma.

The Farmington School District has made it possible through its adult education office for high school dropouts to return to day school and receive their diplomas free of charge.

Held in the portable building behind the Shiawassee Elementary School, the class is from 9 a.m. to noon, five days a week.

This makes the acquisition of a diploma possible for housewives and night shift workers who otherwise have to dedicate the traditional eight class hours to their families and jobs.

A surprising fact to students in the class was that many of the things they had done during the interim period

were dropping out of school and returning counts for credit.

A person who has never attended high school may be farther ahead than he thinks in acquiring a diploma because of military duty, job skills, and homemaking (that means you, housewives) which are all good for credit toward a degree.

Added is the high school equivalency exam which can automatically set a person a grade or two above the level when he left high school.

Since this class began, they have talked about such timely subjects as abortion, marriage, divorce and have had the opportunity to listen to guest speakers of prominence in the community.

Johannes Spreen, sheriff-elect of Oakland County, was one speaker who appeared. There have been representatives from Oakland Community College, the Department of Health, and Farmington Rap Line.

John Miller, 20, is a typical example of the adults who



HARRISON HIGH BAND boosters are going to be selling stickers to raise funds for the band next weekend, Dec. 1 and Dec. 2. Ken Notestine, Ron Kingsbury, Bonnie Babcock,

Richard Blaszczyk and Renee King will be among those raising funds in Farmington. (Evert photo)