

# Board selects superintendent

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

The Birmingham School District Thursday gave new superintendent Roger Garvelink a three-year contract which begins next March 1.

The school district includes a section of northern Southfield.

Currently superintendent of the Monroe-Woodbury School District in New York, Garvelink was named by the board of education to succeed Donald Peckenaugh, superintendent since July 1972.

On March 1, Peckenaugh will become a consultant for the district until his contract expires June 30. He will be free to accept other employment after March 1 if he chooses, while remaining available for consultation.

The board's 7-0 vote for Garvelink ended a five-month search for a new superintendent. He and Garth Errington, superintendent of schools in Albion, were the two finalists for the position.

Garvelink, former high school principal and assistant superintendent in West Bloomfield, will receive \$12,000 annually, fringe benefits, a car and expenses for school business.

REACHED IN New York Friday, Garvelink said he was "excited" at the prospect of heading the Birmingham School District.

"I have a high regard for the education and instructional programs," he said.

Garvelink's contract provides for an annual review and evaluation no later than Feb. 1 of each year. No other details of the contract were discussed, but board President Donna Hartwig said copies could be purchased according to provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Both Garvelink and Errington negotiated terms of a contract when they were in the district in November for public interviews and signed the agreements.

Garvelink's contract was signed by Mrs. Hartwig following the board vote on his appointment Thursday.

GARVELINK SAID he wants to open communication lines with staff members and work at involving district residents in school affairs.

"I want to continue to foster a sense of pride on the part of the staff members in what they're doing," he said. "I think they have a right to be proud."

"And I want to develop a communication system with the staff."

"I also would like to involve the talents of citizens," he said. "Birmingham has a number of very talented citizens. I want to take advantage of that."

Garvelink will take over a school district that has faced a variety of problems during Peckenaugh's tenure, including a continuing enrollment decline and several school closings.

ENROLLMENT HAS dropped from a high of 17,700 in 1957-68 to 11,800 this year.

Four schools have been closed in the district—Baldwin Elementary in 1972, Bloomfield Village and Valley Woods elementary in 1975 and Barnum Junior High in 1976.

When Garvelink was in Birmingham for his public interview, he was asked to comment on the problems the district faces.

"Every school district has problems," he replied. "Birmingham should not be paranoid about its problems."

He said he was interested in coming to the district because of "the excellent program Birmingham has."

He has never been involved in a school closing but said he "would have to jump right in and get oriented."

Immediately following Thursday's meeting, Mrs. Hartwig telephoned both candidates at their homes. Garvelink was at a meeting and expected home a short time later. Both men had been advised that the announcement would be made Thursday and that they would be called.

Peckenaugh did not attend the meeting but was notified later in the evening of the board's choice.

Letters will be sent by the board to all candidates who applied for the position. More than 70 applications were received. Eleven of the candidates were interviewed following their selection by a group of university consultants.

School staff members were notified by letter on Friday of the board's choice.

EACH BOARD member spoke before the vote was taken, stating his view of the two finalists. All referred to the high qualifications of both candidates, their personal and professional qualities and the "soul searching" that went into the difficult decision.

Four trustees—Imogene Angell, Dorothy Eicker, Donald Chadwick and Bruce VanDeusen—said they believed Garvelink was the right man for the job and for the school district at this time.

The remaining trustees, Janet Johnson, Sylvia Whitmer and Mrs. Hartwig, said Errington was their choice. They said they supported the majority and would vote for Garvelink.

Mrs. Johnson, chairwoman of the superintendent search committee, said, "If it were my choice, I would vote for Dr. Errington... that is not to say I can't support Roger Garvelink. He is outstanding. I will give him my full support and encourage others to do so, too."

Mrs. Hartwig said, "I have been very supportive of Dr. Errington, but my vote tonight is for Dr. Garvelink."

MRS. WHITMER did not state her preference for Errington but in a prepared statement cited some of the school district's needs and why she believed he would provide some answers.

"As I see our biggest problem, it is a huge gap between our excellent intentions and our current way of operating," she said.

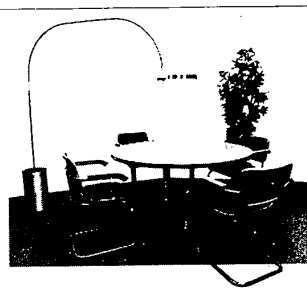
"If I were to characterize our effort as a board, it would be one of stoic perfectionism, the very best intentions bogged down with untold hours given to analyzing details, technicalities and semantics."

"We tend to see the parts as greater than the whole. Our problems concern the process necessary to get to our vision."

"Frankly, I don't think we need better maps which systems analysts tend to generate, nor do we need more specialists to write more precise objectives."

"What we do need is the ability and insight to motivate our staff to put forth the extra energy and the risk which is necessary to the venture."

"DR. ERRINGTON was my choice for the person who could understand this need for motivation, for pulling together the many fine ingredients we already have in policy and staff," Mrs. Whitmer said.



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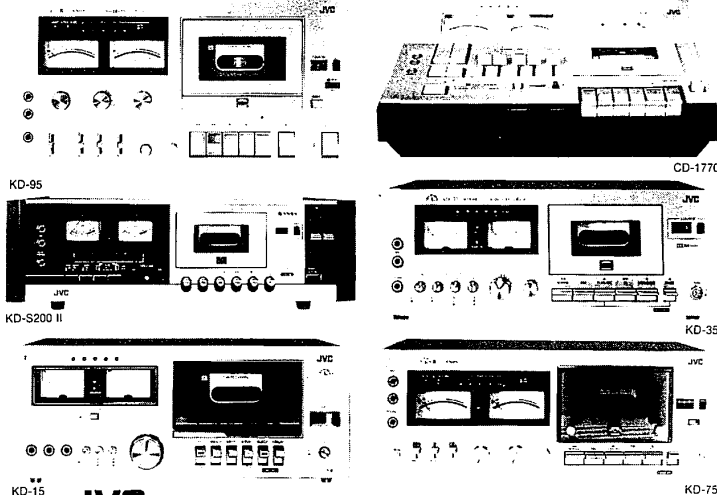
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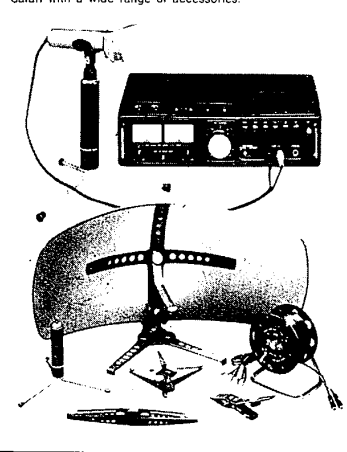
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