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Trustees ponder fate of humanities in classroom

By MARY GNIEWEK

Three hours of debate over expanding high school graduation requirements and mandating humanities ended in a stalemate last week with arguments of students and educators bound over for a vote by the Farmington Board of Education June 3.

Assistant Superintendent Lynn Nutter opened the Thursday night study session by presenting the school board with a new administrative recommendation. It mandates two years

of math, one of science, 1.5 of physical education, three of English, 2.5 of social studies, and a total of 21 credit hours.

That's an additional one year of math, a semester less of physical education and one credit hour more than the first administrative proposal which the school board rejected last month.

The controversy over expanding requirements and particularly for mandating humanities arose in April when a parents' group organized to improve the district's music program.

The group expanded to add concerns of other art disciplines and soon a philosophic split divided parents, students and educators over mandating, versus offering, students maximum choices.

Richard Levinson, acting as spokesman for the parents group representing more than 500 families from each school in the district, requested and was granted presentation time for the June 3 meeting.

LEVINSON IS PREPARING A 200-

page research book — with copies for each of the seven board members — furthering his argument for two years' mandatory humanities.

Under such a proposal, forensics, drama, art, music, foreign language, speech or an English humanities course could satisfy the mandate.

Concerns voiced by Levinson, Harrison High School music department chairman Paul Barber and Harrison seniors David Marovich and Gayle Dalawrak centered on students who hang out in parking lots instead of

classrooms during the six period school day.

"By increasing requirements, you could make those students go to class because now some of those kids are not graduating with a good education," said Marovich.

School Superintendent Lewis Schulman said the district is working on beefing up attendance records and cutting down study halls.

"We want to establish a climate for education but we are constantly faced with students who don't want to learn,"

Schulman said.

"Because we are a comprehensive district designed to educate all students, we have some limitations."

Barber argued that a two-year humanities mandate would still leave nine credit hour electives.

"A comprehensive education should include exposure in all of the disciplines," he said.

TRUSTEE HELEN PRUTOW ar-

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Sorrows priest tapped for duties at Vatican

A priest who assists at Our Lady of Sorrows parish in Farmington on weekends has been appointed to serve under Vatican Secretary of State Agostino Cardinal Casaroli.

The Rev. John Nienstedt will leave for the Vatican in August to serve on the English language desk. It is the first time in the history of the archdiocese of Detroit that one of its priests has been appointed to a Vatican post.

In addition to his duties at Our Lady of Sorrows, Father Nienstedt is secretary to John Cardinal Dearden.

Although the Cardinal was approached last fall by the Vatican concerning the appointment, Father Nienstedt hadn't any idea he was being considered for the post.

"I was totally surprised," he said.

The position goes to a man whose lifelong goal was to become a priest.

"I think I'm one of the few people who ever had an inkling that God was calling me to be a priest," he said.

He remembers telling his fourth grade teacher at St. Paul's elementary school in Grosse Pointe that he wanted to be a priest.

"As long as I've known anything I've known that."

THE CHURCH was part of every day life for the Nienstedt family, he recalls.

"My family was always close to the priests at St. Paul's. They had dinner



FR. JOHN NIENSTEDT

with us on Sunday. In the evening they would stop by for coffee. Priests were a part of our ordinary life," said Father Nienstedt, 33.

His grandfather had attended a seminary in Windsor but left to marry.

"But there was always a real bond between him and his old classmates."

The son of John and Elizabeth Nienstedt attended Sacred Heart High School in Detroit and then enrolled in

Sacred Heart Seminary. He was ordained on July 27, 1974.

He was named associate pastor of Guardian Angels Church in Clawson, a post he kept for 11 1/2 years. He attended the North American College in Rome before assuming his post in the archdiocese 3 1/2 years ago.

His mother had hoped he'd be able to stay close to home for awhile.

"She's proud of me but my mother's a little sad I'm going to be gone," he said.

He added that he will miss the parishioners and priests at Our Lady of Sorrows.

"I'LL MISS just about everything. The priests are a happy group to be with.

"It's a very good place to be. The people are super warm and accepting. They're very generous. I've received encouragement from the community on my homilies and it's made me want to do better," said Father Nienstedt. "I've grown to love them."

The Rev. Kean Cronin of Our Lady of Sorrows parish said that Father Nienstedt will be missed in return.

"I'll very much miss his presence. He's been very much a part of our life for 2 1/2 years. He's great company, very articulate and lots of fun," said Father Cronin.

"It's very exciting," he continued. "Obviously (the appointment) is a recognition of his abilities, his dedication."



Keeping shop

Paul Button, Farmington area's premier one-year hard-keeper, will have more time than ever to keep department. To read more about Button's Orchard, track of things at his place on 12 Mile. After 20 turn to Page 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Bors))

School board candidates debate issues

Challengers

Two newcomers have decided to challenge the school board trustees up for reelection in June 3.

The following are interviews with newcomers Raymond Koteras and Lynn Morgan.

RAYMOND KOTERAS decided it was time to run for a seat on the school board after watching a general decline in the quality of education over the years.

"I want to maintain quality education," says Koteras, a history teacher at Northwestern High School in Detroit.

Should high school graduation requirements be increased?

"I stress the basics, but it's not enough to teach just the basics. There's a definite need for humanities. It gives the person the ability to think and reason."

If cuts have to be made in the school budget, where would you recommend cuts be made?

"First, cut the athletic and music departments based on what other districts cut out first."

What prompted you to run for the school board, why do you feel qualified?

"I've been a teacher since 1966. In that amount of time, I've seen a continuing deterioration in the quality of education."

I want to run in the hopes that it won't happen here, that we'll maintain quality education. I'd like to see more community involvement in education."

Do you favor any of the proposed tax cut measures?

"I can't support the tax cut proposals. We need money to pay the cost of education. If one of these

proposals go through, what happens to teacher contracts throughout the state? What about book purchases? Where will the money be to purchase computers?

"If we go to total federal or state support, then we'd have federal or state interference."

What should the relationship be between school administration and school board, between board and teachers union?

"It's up to the school board to follow an overall school plan. In the schools, it's the administrator's responsibility to implement the plan."

"I believe the union and the board should be open with each other, hash things out in a round table discussion setting."

LYNN MORGAN was attracted to newspaper article which announced the upcoming school board election. With two young children about to embark on formal education in Farmington, he thought the time was ripe to have a voice in their educational pursuits, as well as the pursuits of all students in the district.

Do you think high school graduation requirements should be increased?

"I'd like to see the kids prepared to do what they need to do. To go across the board and say everyone needs the same courses doesn't always fit the circumstances. I'd rather see requirements fit the intended pursuits."

If cuts have to be made in the school budget, where would you recommend cuts be made?

"I'm not familiar with the total

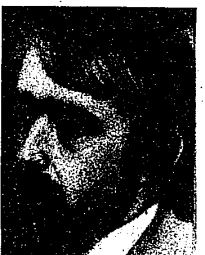
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ROY KOTERAS



HELEN PRUTOW



LYNN MORGAN



JAMES MCGLINCY

Incumbents

Four candidates are vying for two four-year terms on the Farmington Board of Education in the Monday, June 9 school election.

Here's a chance to meet the two incumbents before the West Bloomfield-Farmington League of Women Voters hosts a candidate's night Wednesday, May 28.

JAMES MCGLINCY, was involved in the Parent Teachers Association (PTA) at Alameda and Ten Mile School before he was appointed to the board two years ago to fill the seat of a resigning trustee. Last year he was elected to a one-year term.

Should high school graduation requirements be increased?

"Yes, the math requirement should be increased from one to two years. I'm not so tied up with categories, such as humanities, as with increasing the number of credit hours required. Ideally, it should be 22 or 23 hours."

If cuts have to be made in the school budget, what areas would you recommend be cut?

"Take some funds out of building improvements and examine some of the optional programs we provide particularly at the secondary level — courses such as psychology. The cuts wouldn't be out of the core curriculum. I'd look to options and enrichments."

What was your major achievement and biggest disappointment while on the board?

"The most rewarding part is standing on the stage at high school graduation time and awarding diplomas to students I feel are going out into the world with a good sound education."

"The most frustrating thing to me has been trying to be oriented in

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ARTISTS GATHER

The Gathering Place, where senior citizens congregate daily, will be the place for displays for artists and craftsmen. To see what's going on, turn to the Suburban Life Section B.

White Motors appoints Peck as vice president

White Motor Corporation, Farmington Hills, has appointed Douglas Peck as vice president of law and administration.

He formerly was with Hoover Universal, Inc., Ann Arbor. He joined Hoover in 1966 as corporate counsel, was

elected to the additional post of secretary in 1968 and became president and chief operating officer in 1977.

Prior to joining Hoover he was an attorney with the Detroit firm of Clark, Klein, Winter, Parsons and Prewitt from 1955 to 1968.