

# Trustee incumbents face campaign issues

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 MCGILINCY, 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?

## Meet the candidates

There will be a Farmington School Board meet-the-candidates forum at 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 28 at East Junior High School, room 125, 25000 Middlebelt Road.

The public is invited to attend. The session is sponsored by the Farmington PTA Council and the League of Women Voters of West Bloomfield-Farmington.

Areas voters will elect two candidates to four year terms in the June 9 school election. Candidates are incumbents James McGilincy and Helen Pru-

"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 depth to the whole educational process. We're confronted with lots of material. I need to learn much more about the educational field. It takes time.

Do you favor any of the proposed tax cut measures?

"No, I don't favor cuts at a time when there is no surplus and there is a great demand for government services. The state can't afford it at this time, being in a downward cycle."

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

"The purpose of the league is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government."

The league may not support or oppose any political party or candidates. Voter guides will be available at the candidates night meeting and at the library, the Farmington/Farmington Hills City offices and the Board of Education office, 32500 Shiaswassee.

"There's a close relationship because the administration is the implementation arm of policies made by the board. Still there is a distinction."

"There should be an arms length relationship between the board and the teachers union. There should be communication."

HELEN PRUTOW is the seasoned incumbent in this race with four years including one as school board president — under her belt. Mrs. Prutow was president of the Farmington PTA Council when she was elected to the school board in 1976. She came in first in a field of five candidates in that race.

Should high school graduation requirements be increased?

"I'd like to see increased to 22 credit hours. Two years of math is imperative. Seventy-five percent of the jobs are math oriented. Students not going to college need good computational skills. I'd like to see the science requirement increased to two years, and a one-year requirement in the humanities."

"I'd like to see as many choices as possible left to the kids."

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

"Cut capital expenditures first. Only recently we started playing catch up with that. But that would hurt the children least."

"Instead of drastic cuts, I'd go across the board — take a little money out of

each department."

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

"The highlight has been changing our program from junior high to middle school. It's exciting to start from scratch to benefit the students' education."

"One of the most frustrating things I've had to deal with is special education. I feel very defensive of those kids. There seems to be a growing antagonism from the outside — parents and the community."

"There has been lots of improvement among general education teachers about mainstreaming special education students into the classroom. They're much more accepting."

Do you favor any of the proposed tax

cut measures?

"Property tax is a heavy burden. But when the state takes over financing, it takes over control. The local community will have less to say. Eventually we'd have one big school system with the state dictating everything."

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

"The board is the policy-making body representative of community concerns. The administration is hired by the board."

"The relationship with the union should be as open and cordial as possible. It's very important to keep it positive. They do the day to day educating."

## Parents organize PICK to oppose middle school

Parents Interested in Curriculum for Kids (PICK), an organization of parents and students concerned about how the new Farmington middle school curriculum is being implemented in the 1980-81 school year, has been organized in

Farmington. Those who would like more information or would like to get involved are asked to call Mr. and Mrs. Brundie at 553-2423 or Mr. and Mrs. David Peterson at 553-7130.

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