

Richard Wood

Richard Wood of 2021 Maplewood in Livonia is a 16-year veteran of the Clarenceville Board of Education. Wood, 44, is assured his fifth term on the board because only two candidates filed for two vacancies.

A superintendent of administrative engineering at the Ford Motor Co. casting division in Flat Rock, Wood holds a bachelor's degree in business administration. He has four children. Two are graduates of the Clarenceville School District, and two others still attend school.

He is a member of the Clarenceville Band Parents and the incoming president of the athletic boosters club.

Why are you running for election? I am presently on the board and feel with the experience I have gained I have the knowledge of what the people of Clarenceville are looking for in a good school district.

As a trustee, what kind of education do you want and will you work to provide Clarenceville students in the 1980s?

If elected I will try to work toward a total rounded education that will fit all the needs of all the children of Clarenceville.

What will be the toughest challenge(s) you will face in the next term?

The toughest challenge that faces not only Clarenceville but all the school systems in Michigan will be trying to get the best educational program with the money that is available. With the economic climate the way that it is and will be in the near future just trying to



RICHARD WOOD

stay with what we presently have will be enough of a challenge.

Can and should Clarenceville remain an independent district? Why?

There is no reason that Clarenceville should not remain independent. Clarenceville is larger than approximately 50 percent of the school districts in the state. Our elementary schools score high in the state evaluation tests. Our junior high school has a total program that we are very proud of. The high school has a well-rounded program. We are part of Oakland County Schools and part of the best vocational school in the state.

Income tax hike plan first in Michigan

Legislation for a ballot proposal to raise the state income tax rate was overwhelmingly defeated in the House of Representatives last week.

The measure, the first of many tax shift and tax relief proposals to reach floor debate, was trounced, 77-26, according to Rep. Joseph Forbes, D-Oak Park, House Majority Floor Leader.

The bill, which goes to the Senate for action, would place before voters in the August primary a proposal to raise the state income tax rate from 4.6 percent to 5.4 percent. In exchange, property tax credits would be expanded and the personal exemption against the income tax would be raised from \$1,500 to \$1,800, Forbes said.

"Supporters of the measure say it would meet public demands for property tax relief," Forbes said. "They claim it would provide relief for the vast majority of taxpayers. But it was felt by many, including me, that increasing the rate wouldn't be supported by the voters."

"The bill was presented as an alternative to drastic tax cut plans, such as the Tisch proposal, which may be placed before voters."

Another reason the bill was defeated

in the house, according to Forbes, is because of interest in a bi-partisan plan under study in the Senate. That proposal would give an automatic \$350 property tax credit with an exemption of \$6,500 on the state equalized value of a

home. The proposal would also hike the sales tax from 4 to 5.5 percent, Forbes said. The plan is supported by legislative leaders and Gov. William Milliken, according to Forbes.

Humanities rejected by board

(Continued from Page 1A) Norm Dickson, a representative for the Farmington Association for School Administrators, was even more outspoken in his opposition.

"One brides at the increasing government role in our lives," he said in a statement addressed to the board.

"Each time a new regulation is passed, it limits our right to make our own decisions."

"Limits are needed where decisions may harm or limit another's rights, but when the decision is clearly affecting one's own life and future, then there is

no need for governmental action at any level," he said.

Spiece defended his recommendation, admitting that it would enforce the board's values on students and parents.

"There is no question that this involves choices. It may limit those choices," he said.

"It's also true that this would force students into courses which they otherwise wouldn't have taken. For some it may mean harder courses."

"It won't result in failure, but it may increase the challenges," he told the

board.

Many teachers present feared that enforcing humanities and practical arts on students who weren't interested, or who didn't have the intelligence, may put them in a situation of failure.

"I'm opposed to making children sit in these classes. Under this plan we would either have to have basic classes or Mickey Mouse classes," said one teacher.

Under the proposals discussed, humanities were defined as art, music, foreign language, English literature, minority studies, forensics and debate.

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