

Board splits down tenure lines

The "new majority" on the Walled Lake school board issued a rebuke to a member of the "old majority." It voted 4-3 against Trustee Betty Campion, a long-time board member, to represent Group V school districts on the board of directors of the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB).

Voting was along strict "new majority" lines. Patricia Jackson, David Roddy, Janet Callahan and Kenneth Tucker voted to endorse Campion's opponent, Zella Robinson of the Southfield school board. Mario Tozzi, Robert Cooper and Campion voted for Campion.

back Campion, a longtime board member in Walled Lake, drew strong criticism from members of the audience later in the meeting.

Robert McNatt, who was appointed to the board in the spring but was defeated by Roddy in the June election, said he was "shocked that the board did not support one of its own members whose record speaks for itself."

Campion has long been active in educational affairs on a county and state-wide basis. She presently is a member of the Oakland Intermediate school board and has served on various educational committees on the state level.

Pat Bell asked how board members who voted against Campion could rationalize their decision "when Betty Campion has served this district with distinction on the local and county levels."

"The disgrace is to you and not to her," said Bell.

DISTRICTS IN Region V of the MASB annually select representatives for the organization's board of directors.

The Walled Lake board in July had received a request from Dorothy Boardman, president of the Oakland Intermediate school board, to endorse Campion.

The board tabled action on the request, however, pending additional information on other candidates for the post.

When the subject was reopened at Monday's meeting, Board President Kenneth Tucker objected that information on the other candidate, Robinson, had not been submitted for board review.

Callahan added that she was "disappointed" the superintendent and the board's MASB liaison (Campion) had not shared the information with the board.

Jackman responded to the audience criticism after the vote by saying she had been informed by representatives of Southfield that the information on Robinson had been sent to the Walled Lake board.

"When I requested the materials from her (Campion), I was told they were not available," Jackman continued. "I do not put board unity above proper decisions."

JACKMAN'S ALLEGATIONS that Campion had withheld information on the other candidate for the MASB post were strongly denied by Campion.

"At no time did I ever receive anything from the Southfield Schools," she said.

Campion added that she was neither surprised nor disappointed by the decision of four board members to vote for her opponent for the post.

"Zella Robinson is a very lovely and very bright lady," said Campion. "If she's elected, she will do a good job."

Robinson, a homemaker, was elected to the Southfield board in 1976 and for awhile was the only female board member. She is currently board treasurer.



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Republic neighbors are uneasy

Continued from Page 1A

The center uses two-way radios to keep track of where residents are going on the center's 40-acre complex.

"We air-tighten as best we can, yet there are some kids that do what they want," Boring said.

Two months ago a burglary was directly linked to Republic residents, Farmington Hills police said.

Last week Leeb's home was broken into, and valuables were stolen. Among the items taken were a hunting rifle and ammunition.

"I'm scared to death about it (the Leeb break-in). If the rifle was taken by our kids that's a serious problem," Boring said.

Police told Leeb to look in the ravine for the items, he said.

"When I went down into the ravine I was really amazed by the hole out in the fence," he said. "It's like Robin Hood and his men down there (in the ravine)."

"We use to be sitting out here (on the back porch) two or three times a week, and here they (the boys) would come," said Patricia Cady of 29400 Nine Mile. "The four-letter words are something you don't believe."

"THE GUYS from the Republic walk through the ravine down to the little (7-11) store on Nine Mile," said a woman who lives on Nine Mile who preferred to be unidentified.

The 7-11 store, on Nine Mile and Middlebelt, hasn't had boys from the center coming in for almost a year, a store clerk said.

"We used to have the boys from the Republic coming up here," the clerk said. "But not anymore, since we've gotten in contact with the Republic." The store now calls the center when one of the boys come in.

Since the burglary of the home two months ago, the center has attempted to fix or close the holes in the fence.

"We don't want to say our kids don't do anything. We want to deal with it if they did," Boring said. "We're not alone in having youngsters that might do something wrong."

"Whenever someone does something like this (a breaking and entering) out in the public, we don't readmit them," he said. "The boys who admitted to that breaking and entering will not be readmitted to Boys' Republic."

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