Farmington candidates vie: Part II

Rick Knauer

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Profession/Education: Attorney at Law (private practice).

What type of experience do you have with public education?

Serve, and have served for many years, as the attorney for a neighboring school district. Am on the board of directors of the Wayne State University Alumni Association and am chairman of the Youth Service Committee of Detroit Rotary Club (which seeks out and honors outstanding high school students).

Have appeared numerous times by invitation in classrooms and on advisory panels in an attempt to inform, counsel or educate students, and have worked with administrators, youth officers, students and parents relative to juvenile matters. Was with the Boosters Club while daughter and son were in Farmington schools (both are now college graduates; she teaches special education in a neighboring district).

Why are you seeking election to the Farmington Board of Education?

I desire to give something back to a district which has served my community and my family so well for many years. I would hope to be able to contribute to the district's continued prog-

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Helen Ditzhazy

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Profession/Education: assistant superintendent, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mich.

What type of experience do you have with public education?

I am past member of Gill School PTA and have served on the following types of task forces and committees: Millage committee (Novi/Jackson); Computer Task Force (Jackson); Exchange students (Farmington); Family Life Education (South Redford); Special Education (Farmington/Novi); Gifted and Talented (South Redford/Novi/Farmington); Career education (South Redford); Principal selection - elementary (South Redford/Novi) secondary, (Jackson); Negotiations (South Redford/Novi/Jackson); School improvement committee (Jackson); Parent Council (Novi); German Back-to-Back (Jackson).

Why are you seeking election to the Farmington Board of Education?

Because of my breadth of experience in education and allied activity, I know I will be an informed, enthusiastic, thoughtful board member. As a parent who has had children (18 exchange students and two of my own) in Farmington Schools, I have long been interested

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Michael King

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Profession/Education: Attorney.

What type of experience do you have with public education?

I graduated from Western Michigan University with a bachelor of science degree in education, majoring in political science and history. I also have a juris doctor degree in law granted by the Detroit College of Law. Presently I am an assistant prosecuting attorney, employed by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Trial Division. I hold the office of second vice president in the Wayne County Bar Association. In the past I have taught several training sessions for the Detroit Police Department.

Why are you seeking election to the Farmington Board of Education?

I am concerned about the education of all of our children in our nation, state, and especially our community. Through education, they will have the opportunity to contribute to their own personal growth and the advancement of our society. I hope that as a school board member I will be able to help achieve this goal.

How would you attempt to contain public education costs?

I would try to assure that every item in the school budget is reasonable and necessary. I would make sure the citizens know what they are getting for their money: for a certain amount of money spent, they would get this — . Options should be offered with recommendations. I would support cost-effective education while not sacrificing quality education.

What are your feelings about Farmington Hills' proposed use of The Tax Increment Financing Act (TIFA) along the 12 Mile commercial corridor?

I support the proposal. I feel that it will bring about a more orderly development of the corridor. It will also accelerate the development and bring new businesses into the community, thus expanding the tax base.

If elected, what would be your immediate goals as a school board member?

A number of suggestions in A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform by the National Commission on Excellence in Education, could be implemented in our school system, e.g., teaching foreign languages in the elementary school, more mandatory classes in the "New Basics," and more emphasis on study and work skills in the early grades.

As a school board member I would hope to accomplish these things: more emphasis on the "basic" subjects; provide opportunities for more leaves with pay for teachers desiring to upgrade their skills; provide more shared-time teaching situations for those teachers that desire it for personal or professional reasons; provide latch-key programs before and after school to accommodate working parents (including preschool); offer a foreign language at the elementary level (perhaps before or after school).

How do you perceive the role of school board member?

A school board member makes the policies for his school district, which the superintendent and his administrators must carry out. These policies are made by the entire school board as a group, uniting the views of those individuals that make it up.

He is a sounding board for the citizens' complaints and concerns and must respond in a reasonable manner. He approves a responsible expenditure of money for the school district, and serves as a leader in informing the public on all matters relating to the schools.

In your opinion, what issues will be facing the school district in the next four years?

Coupled with a steadily declining student enrollment, I foresee an increasing tax base through property appreciation. This may not have an immediate effect. However, the impact in the next few years could be significant. The job market in the high-tech areas will create a demand for qualified employees. There will be a greater demand, then, on the school system to provide a more intensified curriculum in the science and mathematics areas. At the same time, enrollment losses will create a demand for budget cuts.

Albert Zolton

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Profession/Education: Associate Professor, Communication and Theater, *Mercy College of Detroit.*

What type of experience do you have with public education?

For over 25 years I have counseled, guided and instructed many education undergraduates during their associate teaching contacts. The majority are now teaching in the metropolitan area.

Why are you seeking election to the Farmington Board of Education?

Most of my life has been spent in the profession of education. I now have the time to give back to it something of what it has given me.

How would you attempt to contain public education costs?

Energy costs continue to increase. Ways must be found to make school buildings and other facilities more energy-efficient. We also need to take a closer look at the routine maintenance of buildings and equipment so that work is done when it needs to be done and not when it has to be done.

What are your feelings about Farmington Hills' proposed use of The Tax Increment Financing Act (TIFA) along the 12 Mile commercial corridor?

Several southeastern state legislators have petitioned State Attorney General Kelly for an opinion relative to definitive uses of the Authority. As I understand it, TIFA is meant to be used in areas of declining real estate values. I would like to withhold judgment until

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Roxanne Fitzpatrick

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Profession/Education: Self-employed.

What type of experience do you have with public education?

I have had extensive experience within public education. My involvements include: PTA — Parent Teacher Association has as its objectives to promote the welfare, health and education of children and youth, specifically by developing a united effort between educators and the general public. By doing this the PTA will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

I was past president of the PTA at Alameda Elementary School, 1980-81 and served on the board at Alameda in several areas 1979-80; Kenbrook PTA; Whittier Elementary PTA, Royal Oak; Farmington Area PTA Council president, 1981-84. Under my term of office, I instituted a children's program booklet that shared all types of programs for recreational and educational uses. This booklet was shared with all the elementary schools.

As president of the PTA council I regularly attended local PTA board meetings to assist them in their planning and to help solve any problems. I also instituted PTA presidents meetings to help these presidents to be more effective.

I served on the Task Force with the school district that researched the closing of Middlebelt Elementary School. This experience gave me a better understanding of declining enrollment, finances, transferring of children to other schools and what happens to the teachers during this closing.

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Donald Allen

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Profession/Education: Financial Manager, Royal Oak Schools.

What type of experience do you have with public education?

My experience in public schools is as a financial manager. I have two children, one attending Farmington Public School and the younger child to start within two years. My membership in the Parent-Teacher Association is with Kenbrook Elementary School.

I belong to the following state associations: Michigan School Business Officials, Michigan School Finance Committee, and the Michigan Investment Schools Association. I have participated on the following committees: Teachers Early Retirement Research and Planning Committee, Citizen Advisor Committee on School Financing, Cafeteria Food Program Service Committee and Board of Education Negotiating Teams.

My experience has given me the opportunity to have direct experience with program directors including Continuing Education, General Education, Special Education, and special areas of education, such as, the Headstart Program and Compensatory Education Program.

I firmly believe in public education and the responsibility to ensure quality education. Part of that responsibility is to provide the necessary supplies, facilities, instruction staff, and support staff. I believe an important part of education is when our children are happy in school and enjoying the educational process.

We can be pleased when our children are eager to read, write, and do mathematical computations. The job is never ending, which makes the process exciting.

Why are you seeking election to the Farmington Board of Education?

I am seeking to be elected to the Farmington Board of Education to ensure "Quality Education" for our children, and to be involved in the process of developing plans and setting policies to meet those goals.

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Marty Krohner

Marty Krohner

Profession/education: assistant prosecuting attorney, Wayne County for 12 years. University of Detroit School of Law.

What type of experience do you have with public education?

Social studies teacher and counselor, Detroit Public Schools. Clerk for Probate and Juvenile Judge Eugene Moore, Oakland County. I have been a speaker, lecturer and faculty member for the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan. A board member Kings Pointe Homeowner's Association and founder and past president of Mother's Against Drunk Drivers.

Why are you seeking election to the Farmington Board of Education?

Recently, it has been brought to my attention that the quality of education in the school district is lacking. I feel that the best way to deal with the problem is to get involved. For the amount of money being spent ($4,900 per child annually), our children are not receiving the best education from our tax dollars. Money should be reallocated to upgrade existing programs (i.e. computer science vs. $100,000 for piano tuning).

How would you attempt to contain public education costs?

Within the next few years, there should be a continuing increase in the tax base (i.e. business district) resulting in more tax dollars for our schools and teachers. I would keep a careful watch on the budget making sure the funds are being used appropriately.

What are your feelings, about Farmington Hills' proposed use of The Tax Increment Financing Act (TIFA) along the 12 Mile commercial corridor?

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