

Clarenceville chief gets top notch grades

By Marie Chestney
Staff writer

In a public evaluation, the Clarenceville School Board last week praised Superintendent Michael Shibler, saying he had far surpassed their expectations and had delivered on promises made when he was hired last year.

Hardly a word of criticism was leveled against Shibler as board members critiqued his first year on the job. They cited him for his professionalism, for the rapport he has established between district and parents and for his

enthusiasm. They especially praised him for the short-term and long-term goals he has set up for the district.

"He's done a fantastic job of defining these goals," said Trustee Linda Albert.

However, board members cautioned Shibler that his biggest test was yet to come.

"We started the year with great expectations and Mike surpassed what he was supposed to achieve," said Trustee Michael Manore. "But next year will be more difficult. He will have to imple-

ment them (the goals he has set)."

BOARD members Thursday also adopted the 13 short-term and 16 long-term goals set up by Shibler. These include developing a K-6 gifted/talented program, launching counseling services for all secondary school services, exploring competency testing for elementary and junior high school and developing handbooks for all grade levels.

Sam Prisk said the superintendent's goals gave the district a "direction."

"You've established them and that's good," Prisk said. "Now let's see what happens in another year."

Board members left no doubt they believed Shibler turned out to be a fine choice for the superintendent's job. Shibler replaced longtime superintendent Dave McDowell, who retired last year.

"We had a good district, and Mike made it better," said Barry Sherman. "The staff speaks highly of him. He's met my expectations and more. He came across with what he said he would do."

Manore said he hadn't yet heard one word of complaint about the profes-

sionalism displayed by Shibler.

Board members said Shibler was lucky to be in the superintendent's chair at a time when the district didn't have to worry about money.

"WE DON'T have to worry about where the next dollars are coming from," said Richard Wood. "We've whipped through the last three-four years trying to stay alive. We can now put meat back into the program. And Mike's new and innovative ideas have helped us a lot."

Some innovations which got the superintendent off to a good start, Wood said, was a questionnaire he sent out in the district and the weekly review of school activities he puts together for the board.

In fact, board members jokingly chided Shibler for the amount of reading information he sends to them.

Wood said the next challenge facing Shibler is teacher union contract negotiations, which start in September.

Shibler said he asked for the open evaluation because "district residents have a right to listen to what they say about me, or make comments of their own."

"I work for the public," he said. "If the meeting was closed, it would imply they have something to hide. I'm willing to have everyone hear both good and bad."

Shibler said "teamwork" contributed to his successful first year. "It's not the work of one person," he said. "The passing of the millage was a community effort. What's impressed me most about this district is the community's cohesiveness."

Before the public evaluation, board members filled out a four-page questionnaire developed by Shibler after he took on the superintendent's job. Ratings in five categories ranged from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent). Shibler was rated on overall performance and board, community, administrative and faculty relationships.

According to the board members' statement, Shibler got either 4s or 5s in all categories.

Battle of bars set for Festival

Channel 2 TV personality Murray Friedman will lead a team of local celebrities against area pub and restaurant employees in the third annual "Battle of the Bars," Saturday, July 20, at 1 p.m. at the Muirwood Shopping

Plaza.

The event is a lighthearted contest to determine the best, most efficient and creative bartenders, waitresses and chefs in the Farmington/Farmington Hills area.

Activities planned for park Kids Day

Kids Day will be celebrated from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the Farmington City Park, on Shilwassee between Farmington and Power roads.

A variety of activities are planned, including contests, games, music, art activities, amusement rides, and others.

Special events include the helium

balloon launch at 12:30 p.m., hot-air balloon at 4:30 p.m., and the Elks motorized drill team at 5 p.m.

The event was organized by the Farmington Community Center, the Farmington Community Library, Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation, and the Farmington Area YMCA.

He helps singles

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Individual helps and knows himself, the better equipped he is to pursue a relationship.

He provides a non-threatening, ungrading, inexpensive way for singles to express their concerns, grow from their experience and meet others in similar situations.

Tabashneck said he usually does not suggest singles bars or dating services to singles.

"It only takes 10 seconds for a man to judge a woman in a bar," Tabashneck claimed. "That's a lot of pressure to expose oneself to, when what you might be looking for is a meaningful relationship. If you're just looking for someone to spend an evening with, that's a different story."

Dating services also have their drawbacks. They are generally expensive and may range anywhere from \$500 to \$700.

"They can really prey on someone's loneliness," Tabashneck said. "If all you want is a date, then they're OK, because they certainly guarantee dates."

Tabashneck described a hypothetical example of a negative dating service encounter: An interested single calls up a dating service for information. A few days later an attractive salesperson of the opposite sex comes over to their house or apartment and delivers a sales pitch. The single is often pressured, because of loneliness or lack of social activities, to spend money and be matched up with someone, either by computer or dating service coordinators.

TABASHNECK believes there are other ways of meeting people. One good avenue is political or cultural organizations. Working on a campaign or volunteering for a large municipal event like the recent Freedom Festival are opportune settings for meeting people.

Further, these events are not specifically geared toward singles. Any sort of interest or sports group is also a nice way to meet people with similar hobbies and ways of spending leisure time.

Tabashneck will lead two mini-workshops at Jensen Associates. The first, "People: Where They Are, How to Meet Them" will be July 23. The second workshop, a new one for Tabashneck, is called "Personals: How to Make Them Work for You." This workshop, which will explore how to write and respond to personal classified ads, will take place Aug. 5. Both workshops meet 8:00-10:00 p.m. The fee for each workshop is \$10.

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