

# 2 school board seats at stake in June 13 vote

By Bob Sklar  
staff writer

Farmington Public Schools voters will fill two four-year terms in the annual district election Monday, June 13.

The expiring terms are held by Helen Prutow, who plans to seek re-election, and James Abernethy, who is undecided about whether he'll run again. The new terms will run from July 1, 1988, to June 30, 1992.

Prutow, completing her third four-year term, said the 10,000-student district is in an exciting era.

"We're doing some marvelous, exciting things," said the three-time board president. "We're looking at a new curriculum, staff development. I don't want to quit now."

She said education is at a crossroads. The Farmington Hills resident called it "a very changing, very in-

teresting time, a time I'd like to continue to be a part of."

Prutow is in her first six-year term as a member of the Oakland Schools Board of Education, which oversees the intermediate school district for Oakland County's 25 school districts.

Since October, she has chaired the Michigan Association of School Boards Legal Trust Fund, which considers applications for financial or legal assistance from school districts involved in lawsuits.

She and her husband, William, have two children who graduated from the Farmington school district.

ABERNETHY SAID a number of factors will influence his decision, which he promises to make as early in March as possible.

"If I choose not to run again, I think it's only fair to give those that might be interested in the position a

little bit of lead time," said the first-term trustee.

The Farmington resident is a professor of architecture at Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield. He and his wife, JoAnne, have two children, one a Farmington high senior.

School board candidates must be at least 18 years of age and be registered to vote. Property ownership is not a requirement.

Nominating petitions, signed by at least 20 registered voters, must be filed by 4 p.m. Monday, April 11.

Those turning in completed petitions can withdraw from the non-partisan race before 4 p.m. Thursday, April 14. Otherwise, their names will automatically appear on the ballot.

PETITIONS ARE available from Betal Duschinske, business support services supervisor, at the Lewis

Schulman Administrative Center, 32500 Shilwaukee, Farmington, between 7:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

She's also available to assist candidates with information about filing and campaign finance laws.

Other board members continuing in staggered four-year terms are Janice Rolnick and R. Jack Inch, both in their third four-year term; Susan Rennels, in her second four-year term; and John Cotton and Helen Ditzhay, each serving their first four-year term.

The board of education meets regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. It considers recommendations from the salaried administration and sets all district policies.

Farmington Public Schools encompasses all of Farmington, most of Farmington Hills and a portion of West Bloomfield Township a half mile north of 14 Mile between Inkster and Middlebelt.

## Man found guilty of murdering wife

Continued from Page 1

convicted he killed her."

Todd called the incident a "domestic dispute" in which alcohol and family problems played a part. A family crisis on the day of Marlene Edwards' death was only a "catalyst" and not the primary reason, she added.

"He (Edwards) contradicted all the eyewitnesses to the fire," she added.

Two alternate jurors released from duty before deliberations began Tuesday said they would have found Edwards guilty of both counts, although were unsure of the

degree of murder.

MARLENE EDWARDS' sister from Warren, who attended the five weeks of trial testimony, declined comment following the verdict. Also sitting through the lengthy trial were the defendant's sister-in-law, several family friends and former neighbors from the Farmington Hills subdivision. The Edwards were married 25 years.

Edwards' youngest daughter is living in California while his older daughter still lives in the area.

"Maybe when this is all over, we can make a fresh start," one family member said last week.

## on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

**Farmington Hills City Council**  
City Council Chambers  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 29

The council will meet with the Southfield City Council to discuss updated plans for the proposed \$44.5 million Evergreen-Farmington sewer improvements. The status of an Environmental Protection Authority Grant also will be discussed.

**Downtown Development Authority**  
Farmington Council Chambers  
222 Liberty  
8 a.m. Tuesday, March 1

This is the annual meeting of the DDA board. On the agenda is election of officers, proposed budget for

next year, amendments to the current year's budget and reappointments of two DDA members.

Also on the agenda is an annual report to be presented by the DDA executive director. Other items include consideration of an energy contract bid for the upcoming downtown project and the purchase of ballparks.

**Farmington Board of Education**  
Lewis Schulman Adm. Center  
32500 Shilwaukee  
7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 1

Trustees are scheduled to consider recommendations on boundary and facility changes for the district. Discussed in more detail will be proposals for a "choice" program for parents at the elementary level, as noted at the last meeting by superintendent Graham Lewis.

Also on the agenda tomorrow night are:

• pay increases for salaried employees.

• ratification of a collective bargaining contract for custodial, cafeteria and maintenance workers.

• an election resolution regarding two board seats that will be vacated this year.

• and a request for posting a new position in the district.

**Cultural Awareness Committee**  
Farmington Hills City Hall  
Meeting room  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2

The committee will welcome and introduce new members and discuss information on the student foreign exchange program, the Farmington Founder's Festival, corporate funding and a flag display at the Farmington Community Library.

**Farmington Hills Planning Commission**  
City council chambers  
31555 11 Mile  
7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3

A public hearing is scheduled to receive public comments on proposed changes to the master land use plan. Proposed changes are in the categories of cluster, multiple housing, office, recreation and miscellaneous.

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