Communication key to new WL superintendent

By Carolyn DeMarco stalf writer

A Royal Oak assistant superintendent is the new superintendent of the Walled Lake Schools.

The Walled Lake Schools.

The Walled Lake school board recently approved the contract of James R. Gelsler as superintendent of schools. Gelsler's three-year contract goes into effect July 1.

Geister said he hopes to bring better communication, internal and external, to the district. "One of the needs here centers around communication. There are nine communities and no central focus. It will be a challenge to look at that.

"If the school district is to become the focus then we need to market the school district to form that after school district to make the school district to make the school district to make the school district to promise and meading of Superintendent Leroy Bordorough since the departure 10 months ago of Superintendent Leroy Bartman, whose final year of a three-year contract was bought out by the board. Bartman was often at odds with the board.

She currently works as a church administrator. "I'm just a product of my entire background," she added. "And I'm not an unknown quantity."

DOLAN HAS lived in the district

DOLAN HAS lived in the district 22 years, serving 13 of those on the Farmington Hills City Council, including two terms as mayor. She is active in other civic and community groups, including the Farmington Community Center, the Farmington Area YMCA Board of Directors and the Farmington Art Foundation.

With many years of moving before coming to the Farmington area, she learned to join in, participate and get involved. "I care very much about people. I'm people-oriented," she said. "And if I don't like some-thing, I'll get in and change it.

"When I jump in, it's usually over my head, but I'm a good swimmer," she added.

Dolan decided to run for the state House seat when seven-term incum-



new WL superintendent

Dolan says she's ready

for shot at House seat

bent Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brother-ton announced last January he would not run for another term. "I never had any goals in politics," she said, "but when Sandy retired, I thought, "Who knows this community?" I have been so involved."

She is attacking her campaign with a grass-roots effort, speaking to church and community groups, many of which she belongs to. Dolan is also holding traditional fund-raisers, going door-to-door to meet people and sending personal mailings.

DOLAN HAS held a seat on the Botsford General Hospital Baard of Directors since 1977, where she has developed a concern with health care issues — something she puts the top of her list for Lansing, if elected. "It's a true crists," she said. "You're much sicker now when you go into the hospital."

Getting a handle on the malprac-tice crisis is key, in order to keep young doctors from getting an edu-

"IF IT WEREN'T for problems, we wouldn't need administration," Geisler told the audience after the approval. "This is a tremendous op-portunity. If there is one word which

characterizes this district it is 'potential.'"

characterizes this district it is 'potential.'

Geister comes to Walled Lake from the Royal Oak Pablic Schools, and the Royal Oak Pablic Schools, and the Royal Oak Pablic Schools, and the Lake Schools.

At Royal Oak, Celsier was assistant superintendent of schools and superistendent of schools and director of physical education and athelies. He was chief negotiator for five bargaining units. "The two districts are strikingly similar," Gelsler said in an interview Friday. "Both have junior highs schools and a vocational center. . The big difference is Royal Oak is an older community."

Gelsler said his first tasks as superintendent will be to get to know the buildings of the district, assess the reports by the Facilities Needs Task Force and analyze the proposals which will need to go to the vot-

cation here, then leaving the state, she said. She is also concerned about the nursing shortage and the issue of "spousal impoverishment," where ille savings can be eroded when a partner dies.

"As this area ages, that's ave ar important issue," she said.

She also lists property tax reform and small business concerns as key legislative issues in coming years.

Jan Dolan is not related to Demo-cratic candidate John E. Dolan of Bingham Farms.

She faces three Republican chal-leogers in the Tuesday, Aug. 2 pri-mary; Beverly Hills Village County president Michael Bouchard, Farm-ington Hills planning commissioner Paul Welday and Farmington Hills resident Mike Sarafa. The 69th Dis-trict seat has been held for the past 14 years by Brotherton.

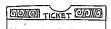
The 69th District covers an area encompassing Farmington, Farm-ington Hills, and the Southfield Township villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin.

ers. "Everyone agrees we need expansion but there is always a fear that in 10 years we won't need the schools," Geisler said. "Projecting the future is always difficult." Geisler said he is aware that observers have felt it was often the board and not the superintendent running the schools in he board needs to be a polley maker. Running the schools is what they hire administrators to do. There has to be trust. When there is, things work well.

"WHEN THE ROLES are reversed or not complementary we have a place that has been troubled It takes time to grow out of it. My







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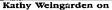


goal is to earn their trust and confi-dence so that they can return to poli-cy-making."

The 42-year-old superintendent joined the Royal Oak system in 1983 after nine years as principal of North Muskegon High School. Prior to that he was assistant principal of

North Muskegon High School. Prior to that he was assistant principal of Notro Dame High School in Chicago. Gelsler earned a master's degree in education from Loyola University of Chicago and a doctorate from the University of Chicago. He is married to Susan Wilke Geisler, a substitute teacher in area school districts. They are the parents

of three daughters and a son ranging from a first- to a 10th-grader. The Royal Oak residents plan to eventually move into a community served, by the Walled Lake district. Geisler has served on the education committee of the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce and the education committee of Shrine of the Little Flower. "I will miss Royal Oak," he said." "It's been a wonderful place to work. I was on the early edge of a longtime plan to be a superintendent, but when opportunity knocks you pursue it."





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