

New school post stresses media and technologies

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Keeping in line with a promised move toward high technology, the Farmington school board has created a new position of director of media resources.

Peggy Schmidt, most recently a media specialist at Farmington High School, moves into the new position immediately, where she will oversee 19 media centers and their staffs around the district. She will also continue planning for the \$1-million upgrading of the Farmington High media center.

The new position moves up a step in rank and replaces the former coordinator of media. "It's an expansion of the previous position," Schmidt said. "The media folks felt we needed someone to be an advocate... considering all the merging technologies."

These technologies involve not only computers, but cable, instructional television, and of course, expansion of printed material and how it is cataloged. "There are so many things going on. If you have people who are forward looking, you can do a lot,"

she added. "Kids are changing and change is becoming the norm." The school district "must change its approaches and strategies," she added.

SCHMIDT CAME to Farmington schools two years ago after a seven-year career with the University of Michigan, where she was a media consultant, trainer and graduate teacher. She also worked for about eight years in the public school system, teaching foreign language, English and social studies in grades 6-12.

For the past two years, she has served as media specialist at Farmington High, getting involved in the Effective Schools philosophy there. She played an integral part in preparing for the upgraded media center, in which she will remain "intimately involved."

Schmidt is excited by the new challenge.

"I'm looking forward to it," she said. "I will miss direct contact with the students, but will have the chance to impact lots of other people."



This is a view of the road rehabilitation work looking west down 14 Mile toward Farmington Road.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

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