

Farmington schools name 2 new principals

By Casey Hans
staff writer

Two middle school assistant principals in the Farmington Public Schools were elevated July 10 to the role of principal.

The appointments of Laura Miner of East Middle School and Buhl Burton of Power Middle School will be effective with the new school year this fall. They replace the retiring Robert Brown and Donald Keen, longtime educators in the Farmington district. Eighty-five people are pleased for the two jobs.

"I'm very pleased," said Burton,

who has worked in the district 26 years. "We're proud of our public schools — we think a lot of Farmington." Burton said he looked forward to the challenge of reviewing the district's middle schools in the next several years.

"We're both very excited," Miner added.

Assignments to individual schools have not yet been made, acting superintendent Michael Flanagan said July 10. Current principals William Martin at East and Walter Scobie at Warner Middle School will be given the opportunity to change schools before final assignments are made.

"These people had significant references from colleagues," Flanagan said. "That very much impressed me."

THE SCHOOL board unanimously approved the appointments.

A committee consisting of three administrators, two parents and two teachers evaluated the applications and selected four for Flanagan's review.

Miner, a Farmington Hills resident, holds a bachelor degree from Western Michigan University emphasizing secondary education mathematics and psychology. She also has

a master's degree in middle school administration from the University of Michigan. She has done post-graduate work in computer science and education.

Miner was appointed as assistant principal in 1986, and has served the Farmington district in other capacities, including secondary math and computer teacher, and a teacher of gifted and talented students. She has also taught at Madonna College in Livonia as an adjunct business instructor. She started her career in Farmington in 1971, which was interrupted by a two-year period when

she worked for St. Charles Community Schools.

She serves the Farmington district on several committees, including: bilingual, computerized report card committee, computer committee, and has evaluated gifted and talented programs and assessment tests.

BURTON HAS served as assistant principal at Power since 1980, and prior to that held the same position at O.E. Dunckel starting in 1972. He also worked at East Middle School and at the former Farmington Junior High School, where he started in 1965 as a teacher.

Most recently, Burton established an Effective Schools core team at Power Middle School, in charge of implementing the school improvement project. Related to this, he has attended improvement workshops and programs.

He also served on building planning committees for Harrison High and Power schools.

He holds both bachelor and master degrees from Michigan State University. In the community, he has served as the Hamburg Township Planning Commission chairman for the past 10 years. He is a resident of Lakeland.

Educator remembered as easygoing

By Kevin Brown
staff writer

Friends and family say longtime Clarenceville Junior High principal Arthur Mann was a funny man who loved children and loved life.

"He was an easy person to like, very outgoing and jolly," said his former assistant principal, Duane Nutter.

After complications from heart bypass surgery, Mann, 74, died Saturday in Petoskey.

'He always had a sense of humor in any kind of situation. He could always loosen up the environment with jokes and funny sayings.'

— Patricia Vickery
a former colleague

mer Westbrook Elementary in 1960 when she first met Mann.

"He always had a sense of humor in any kind of situation. He could always loosen up the environment with jokes and funny sayings. He was never a man that was left without an answer."

THE RETIRED principal was born May 14, 1915, in Bessemer in the Upper Peninsula.

Mann, who played drums, helped support himself as a student at Albion College by heading his own band, Arthur Mann and the Bad Manners, his daughter, Kay, said.

After earning a bachelor's degree in 1941, he taught for three

years in Hadley near Flint before coming to Clarenceville to teach at the high school, from 1940-57.

After leaving the junior high principal's post in 1971, Mann served as Westbrook principal for two years, then returned to teaching at Clarenceville High through 1975.

VICKERY SAID that when Mann officially retired from the district in 1975 — he would serve as a consultant to the board of education for two more years — "he declined any formal celebration."

Instead, he wanted "a real bash," she said.

Daughter Kay said that after re-

turning to Central Lake, near Petoskey, he worked as a substitute teacher on occasion, even this spring.

She said her father liked to travel, and had planned a trip to England next spring.

Family members joked, "You never go any place with Grandpa Mann where he doesn't run into somebody he knows," she said.

Mann, whose second wife died in recent years, had put 35,000 miles on a car he bought a year ago to visit his girlfriend in northern Michigan, his daughter said.

Funeral services were held Tuesday in the Central Lake Chapel of the Mortenson Funeral Home. Burial was at Southern Cemetery in Central Lake.

Survivors include: son, Richard of Thompsonville, Mich.; daughters, Eleana Kay Mann of Rochester, Barbara Clayton of Dearborn; stepdaughters, Janet Stuhlmann of Mancelona, Sally Edick of Massachussetts and stepsons, Donald and William Stuhlmann, both of Mancelona.

Group wants vote on C'ville issue

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Her comments followed a meeting on the issue Monday at the Farmington Public Library. Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, discussed reorganizing districts before about 50 people on both sides of the issue.

Backers of the movement to dissolve the district point to the more modern facilities and greater spending per pupil in the adjacent Farmington and Livonia school districts.

The school millage rate in the Clarenceville district is also higher, 41.4 mills, than in the Livonia Public Schools, 35.4, or in Farmington Hills, 32.39.

Those opposed to consolidation cite improvements in the Clarenceville schools in recent years and a close relationship between parents and administrators in a smaller district.

SOME MAINTAIN that if consolidation should occur, spending per

pupil would not be significantly different than now.

In addressing the meeting on Monday, Faxon said he outlined "what's been the pattern of school district organization."

Beginning in the 1920s, he said, the number of school districts in the state has reduced, but that process has lagged in the last 25 years.

Faxon said that with state legislators considering how to more equitably fund education, consolidation is one way to meet that goal.

"It doesn't make sense to put more money into education systems when the inequity of rich and poor districts can be easily changed if some of the districts join the next district," Faxon said.

While Faxon said he generally supports consolidation of school districts, he is not necessarily advocating that Clarenceville be consolidated, saying that that is up to district voters.

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