

# New education head likes Engler agenda

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Robert E. Schiller, 44, was the surprise and unanimous choice of the state Board of Education to be Michigan's new Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The board made its decision Tuesday night and rattled it in open session Wednesday morning, said president Dorothy Beardmore, R-Rochester.

Schiller is currently deputy superintendent of public instruction in Delaware.

"Michigan is poised to become a national leader in education," said Schiller.

"I believe in the governor's agenda," he added.

He was with Gov. John Engler at 9 a.m. Wednesday when his wife, Lucille, received a call from Beardmore that he was the board's choice.

His selection was on a voice vote and took about 30 seconds at the board's open meeting.

SCHILLER HAS BEEN a deputy superintendent in two states — Delaware and Louisiana — and superintendent of three school districts in New Jersey.

"I come from New Jersey which is very much identical to Michigan," said Schiller when asked about Michigan's strong home rule tradition and distrust of state bureaucracy.

"New Jersey has 700 school districts. Michigan has 560. I respect it (local control). You can't remove local control by the state, but the state should work as a partner," said Schiller.

The new state school chief holds a master's in English literature from the University of Mississippi, a master's in education from the University of Pennsylvania and an educational doctorate from University of Pennsylvania.

His wife, Lucille, has been a teacher for 18 years. He will take over in February and will be paid \$88,300.

The superintendent runs a department that helps the elected board set policy, administers the school aid act, certifies teachers and administrators, inspects proprietary schools, manages schools for the blind and deaf and directs statewide MEAP (educational achievement) testing.

In naming Schiller, the board passed over two Michigan candidates.

# \$46 million for Rouge cleanup

By Wayne Peal  
staff writer

Wayne and Oakland county officials say a \$46 million pilot project will go a long way toward cleaning the Rouge River.

But the final answer still rests in millions of dollars in additional spending by individual communities.

"The problems are severe, the answers elusive and the cost will be high," Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara said.

Announced last week, the \$46 million pilot project will create retention basins for combined sewer overflows — the last major source of Rouge pollution.

"We hope to have one-third of all overflows under control by 1996," Wayne County public works director James Murray said.

Overflows, containing human waste and other pollutants, are considered the last major source of Rouge pollution. They are the product of combined sewers old, outmoded municipal lines that back up in heavy rain and flooding and dump waste as well as storm water into the river.

While Rouge River industrial pollution has substantially been brought under control, the pilot project is the first major attempt to curtail overflows.

The federal program will provide

for design and partial construction of overflow retention basins in Redford, Detroit, Dearborn and Dearborn Heights, Murray said. But each community must also pay 45 percent of construction costs.

Oakland County basins will be built in Birmingham and Beverly Hills, county drain commissioner George Kuhn said. They will be added to retention basins already built or being built in Farmington and Lathrup Village.

"Three of the six planned for Oakland County are already underway," Kuhn said.

The federal pilot program will

cover design and engineering costs as well as 55 percent of construction costs.

There are currently no cost estimates for individual basins, Murray said.

Overall Rouge cleanup has been estimated at \$250 million or more, with the majority of money coming from individual communities.

Already, there is talk of a new sewer authority to replace the outmoded combined sewers.

Locals are under Federal Environmental Protection Agency orders to clean the Rouge.

## Mental illness support group holds holiday social tonight

A holiday social will highlight the general meeting of the Oakland County Alliance for the Mentally Ill at 7 p.m. today at the Jewish Vocational Services offices, 29699 Southfield Road, Southfield.

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