

Wayne-Westland eyes WB educator

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Officials from the Wayne-Westland School District are scheduled to visit West Bloomfield schools Friday on a possible recruiting mission.

They will visit the district to consult with the colleagues and associates of Larry Thomas, who is a leading candidate to be that district's next school superintendent.

Thomas was one of three finalists interviewed this week. He's the first candidate to be the subject of an on-site visit designed to assess suitability for the job.

Thomas was unavailable for comment early this week. But his boss

■ 'Dr. (Larry) Thomas certainly has vast experience in a variety of school positions.'

Seymour Gretchko
superintendent

— Superintendent Seymour Gretchko — is aware he has applied for the Wayne-Westland job.

"Dr. Thomas certainly has vast experience in a variety of school positions," Gretchko said of Thomas, who is West Bloomfield's assistant superintendent of instruction. "I recommend him highly."

Wayne-Westland School District's last superintendent resigned under pressure from the board in November, and the district's deputy superintendent resigned last week to accept a new job in Flint.

Wayne-Westland is so wracked with controversy one school board member publicly said the district's highly publicized internal problems may be part of the reason the job didn't attract "better candidates."

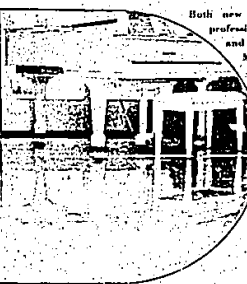
That school board member, Leonard Posey, made the comment publicly last Saturday during a special meeting when the board eliminated all but three candidates, Thomas, Ted Culver, superintendent of the Pinckney schools, and

Dennis McMahon, superintendent of Brighton schools.

Wayne-Westland initiated a nationwide search for a new superintendent late last year. More than 50 candidates responded, but the response was considered disappointing from board members who expected as many as 100 applicants.

Also at Saturday's meeting, another board member expressed disappointment at the quality of the candidates who did respond. "I don't think we're looking at an 'A' list," said board member Kathleen Chorghian. "I think we're looking at a 'B' list."

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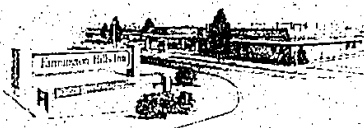
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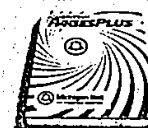
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