

## Trustee from page 1A

### Eye on education

He said he will watch closely the progress in areas like restructuring scheduling at all the school levels and team teaching — currently being piloted at several schools in the Farmington district — and in looking for unique ways to motivate gifted students. Abernethy remains interested in seeing that all students, in all buildings, get an equal shake.

That's something on which the district is working hard, he said. Although Farmington's school buildings are "far from equal," Abernethy said he believes all the schools have "excellence with diversity" — and that's very, very fine. "They're all different, but excellent."

He remains concerned about Farmington's gifted and talented students, saying he's pleased there is a plan in place, but "I really expected to see more happen in eight years."

He also advocates abolishing the traditional "box schedule" at the secondary level so students can fit more into their day. "It will stand

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in the way way of our reaching our goals," he said.

The use of technology will also be key and something he will watch with interest.

### Many plans

Although gone from the board for only a few weeks, Abernethy already has filled his plate with hefty servings from other parts of his life. The Lawrence Technological University architecture professor said he is doing more consulting work with businesses and schools seeking advice on structural soundness and tornado safety in their buildings.

He has also rejoined his church choir and has taken on deacon's duties at Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

His interest in tornado safety relating to buildings and other structures has carried him around the country in the past 18 years. He is often called upon for his expertise. "These are the things I've always been part of," said the Farmington resident, who has two grown sons who are graduates of Farmington High School.

He was elected to the board in 1984 in his first attempt at public office, garnering most of the votes. During his tenure on the board, Abernethy often asked tough questions of the administration and did

not back down on issues he considered important, observers said. Superintendent Michael Flanagan thanked the outgoing trustee for his candid thoughts and questions, and said he carried his interest in education beyond the boardroom.

"He's very supportive," Flanagan said. "A lot of people will talk change, then really don't want it. At least he's willing to consider the evidence."

Abernethy said he is pleased to see the district will have a strong evaluation process in place and that the community has taken an active interest in the district.

Although he is often given credit for his professional guidance on many district building and design projects — including Hillside School and the Farmington High School media center — Abernethy refuses to take credit, saying that those involved with the day-to-day project in the school administration should get credit.

"I think we have one of the best teams in the state," he said. "It's a nice way to leave."

## Wooddale from page 1A

The board deferred action until a second traffic and safety study could be done, which was presented by Barton-Aschman Associates of Southfield at the board meeting Monday. Manager Michael Labadie told the board the parking lot, as is, is not safe and he recommended a change which would close the current southerly driveway to the school and put a new drive west onto Oak Forest.

Previous proposals and efforts by the school and parents to control car and bus traffic were futile, at best, he said. "What they were trying to do is put a Band Aid on something that was really bleeding."

But the issue Monday was complicated by residents living to the west told the board they didn't want the additional traffic there, on a dead-end street in a heavily wooded area.

School studies show more than half of the students attending Wooddale come from an area to the west.

Urs Bockl of Oak Forest said the district had taken a poor approach in notifying residents of the situation, that the change would de-

crease Oak Forest residents' property values, and that the district is "solving the problem in its own parking lot" by moving it onto the streets.

Others said they didn't want to look out onto a school driveway where they now see trees.

The school board voted 5-2 Monday against the Barton-Aschman recommendation, with trustee Jack Cotton and Cathleen Webb voting in favor of it. Webb said she is eager to have something done before this winter.

Other board members including Susan Rennels, Helen Ditzhazy, Helen Prutov, Joseph Svoke and Jack Ingh, voted against the measure, saying they wanted more time to study it.

Rennels also called for school administration to formulate a plan of action for advising area residents of such proposals and projects in the future. "Should this occur again, we need a much better way to notify neighboring residents of what's going on," she said. "That is one of our greatest shortcomings."

Board members plan to walk the site on Monday, July 20, at 6 p.m.

## Attorney from page 1A

Knoppow also takes a creative view of the judicial role. He calls for sentencing which fits the crime, staggered scheduling of cases and using the judge's leadership role to expand alcohol and drug education in schools. Knoppow handles many drunk driving cases, and believes that much of this problem could be better han-

dled through the driver's education process.

"It [learning about drinking and driving] should be a significant part of the process and I don't think it is," he said. "I'm a great believer in preventive medicine — really in preventive law, so to speak."

He also believes there needs to be the utmost integrity in a courtroom,

even between attorneys on opposing sides. "As an administrative law judge, I refused to permit small talk before a case. It gave at least the appearance of bias, if not the substance of bias," he explained.

Knoppow believes a third judge is needed in Farmington, and that "ultimately, it is going to have to be done."

"I believe in saving tax dollars where there's waste and inefficiency," he said. "In this case, I think it's necessary."

What exactly is the role of a district court judge? Knoppow said it's

quite different than what judges face in other courts. "It's not the role of a district court judge to make the law," he said. "It's a district judge's role to follow the law. There are two types: one who goes where

the law leads or others who know where they want to go and bend the law to meet it."

"The image of the scales of justice is something I take very seriously," he added.

### Common Sense in the 90s

Meyer for Congress  
A Tale of  
Two Cities



was written by Charles Dickens in 1859. It focused on events during the French Revolution. In our day there is another tale of two cities, namely Cleveland and Los Angeles. We all are vividly aware of the eruption of destruction and violence in L.A. which ensued after the verdict in the Rodney King trial. Such violence can not be condoned nor tolerated. Nonetheless, the underlying inequities which exist just beneath the surface need to be addressed. The remarkable change in Cleveland in recent years attests to the real possibilities for change if all in the community work together to listen to one another, to respond to the concerns, and to grow together with pride in one's city. I intend, as your congressman for the seventh congressional district, to work for such changes in the cities of America. I intend to speak legislation which will support the very concrete relationship between labor and management to make America great once again. This will involve a written constitution which more and more Americans are working toward a just wage for their labor. This will not be an easy task. It will require a renewed effort to rise above prejudice and seek equity for all in the work place. This will mean an attitude adjustment regarding work, money, to put it in a fair day's work for a fair day's wage. And finally, this is for many cities in America we only have a peaceful and prosperous ending if we all collaborate in the effort. I ask that you vote for our cities on August 4 by voting for Michael Meyer, a democrat for Congress.

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