

School board trustee plans to resign seat

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Moving out of the Walled Lake Consolidated School District, veteran school board trustee Marc Belasy tonight will announce his resignation "with regret."

Belasy, 38, is having a home built outside of the district and will eventually move there with his wife and two children. Elected officials must live within the areas they serve. He would not disclose where he is moving.

He said the relocation is the only reason he is stepping down. His job duties at Michigan National Corp. in Farmington Hills, where he is first vice president, "really don't have anything to do with my resignation." The bank is in the midst of a major streamlining project.

Although the resignation took effect July 1, Belasy will read a statement to his board colleagues and Superintendent James Gei-

WALLED LAKE

At today's 7:30 p.m. board meeting at the Educational Service Center on Ladd Road.

Belasy, who has served on the board since 1988, read some of the statement Tuesday over the telephone.

"My family's decision to move has nothing to do with the quality of education (in Walled Lake)," said Belasy, adding that the district "met or exceeded" (educational) needs exceptionally well. I fill the vacant slot until the June 1995 election — when a candidate will be elected to serve the final year of Belasy's term.

With the resignation, the board will have to appoint someone to fill the vacant slot until the June 1995 election — when a candidate will be elected to serve the final year of Belasy's term.



Marc Belasy

Belasy said he is "disappointed" he won't be around "to see Project 21 all the way through." Last October, voters defeated the ambitious \$135.5 million proposal; a scaled-down \$116 million version is expected to be brought before voters in late September.

But he did cite several accomplishments he is proud of. "I helped create an environment where very talented educators sought to work," Belasy said. He added that other accomplishments included the expansion of the counseling program and adoption of a 1989 bond issue.

Walled Lake Schools seek bond OK

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER

If at first you don't succeed, fine tune and try again.

For the Walled Lake Consolidated School District, that means serving up a lighter bond proposal to voters this fall. Voters probably will be asked in late September to decide a \$116 million proposal, a less-expensive version of Project 21, the \$135.5 million proposal that was defeated last October.

The state treasury department is now considering the district's application for a \$116 bond. If the application is approved the board would need to set an election date.

"Generally, the feeling is positive that we need to proceed," said board president David Flammer, responding to whether it might be too soon to again ask the public for more than \$100 million. "We haven't heard any people say 'Don't do it.'"

Flammer said the new proposal is "as low as we can go. It's about a 10 percent cut from last time. . . Considering that the

costs of doing (bond proposal projects) are higher, I think it's a realistic number and one we can pursue."

Most of the same projects which made up Project 21 would be included in this fall's version: building an elementary school and two middle schools; renovating several others; bringing state-of-the-art technology to classrooms.

The influx of technology would take the "biggest hit" in the scaled-down proposal.

Under Proposal 21, plans were to add computer labs at each school, large enough to "handle a whole class at the same time." The district also wanted to bring five or six computers to each regular classroom.

With the new proposal, Flammer said "I think we're going to cut that back to a lab in each building but only one per classroom."

The computer labs probably would include 30 stations. Because of educational concerns, downsizing labs to cut costs is not

a viable option, Flammer said.

"The problem with smaller labs is that teachers are caught in the middle," between students working at the computers and those remaining in the regular classroom, he explained.

Flammer cited a couple reasons why he thinks the public will be "more supportive this time."

The main reason is less confusion about how the state will fund public education listed in a winter voter survey as the top reason for the defeat of Project 21.

Flammer also said residents could become more supportive of the proposal after they receive their July school tax bills and "see a dramatic drop" from their 1993 bill.

Last year, the district charged taxpayers about 36 mills. Under the new set-up, Flammer said homeowners will pay about 10 mills; taxes will total about 24 mills for non-homeside (businesses, rental properties, second homes).

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