

# Walled Lake Central loses top 2 administrators

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Two of Walled Lake Central High School's top administrators are resigning effective June 30, only months after voters rejected a \$116 million bond issue that would have pumped economic life into their aging building.

The resignations of principal Richard Smith — who spent 16 years as Walled Lake Western principal before moving over to the Central helm in 1985-86 — and assistant principal Curtis Day were accepted "with regret" by the school board at last Thursday's regular meeting. Expected

to remain on board for 1995-96 is assistant principal David Schreiber, who is in his first year on the job.

Their departure also comes shortly after Central implemented a major restructuring of the school day, a project Smith waited years to see come to fruition. Since January, students there have attended longer class periods during four of the school week's five days, resulting in improved student-teacher communication.

## WALLED LAKE SCHOOLS

"Central High School will be dramatically impacted by the resignation of its leader, Richard Smith," said Walled Lake schools Superintendent James Geisler, reading a statement during last week's board meeting. "... Mr. Smith has demonstrated he is a master at his craft, both organizationally and (in) supervising the instruction of thousands of students over his many years of service."

"Perhaps the most remarkable thing to say about his contribu-

tions is that they have never stopped coming and his own development has never stopped happening."

Geisler went on to say that he regretted "seeing Mr. Smith move on to other challenges and opportunities to contribute to the society at large..." (taking his experience) into yet-to-be-determined venues."

If Smith does go to another district, he will take with him decades of experience collected at two buildings in Walled Lake. Before opening Western High School in the fall of 1969, he was a teacher

and assistant principal at the old Walled Lake High School, which eventually became Central.

Attempts earlier this week to reach Smith and Day for comment about their resignations were unsuccessful.

The timing of the double departure is somewhat curious, because Central — perhaps more so than any other building in the district — stood to gain most from the two-question bond issue that was defeated Feb. 4. Planned improvements included: technology, classrooms, competition gymnasium, performing arts center and handicapped-accessible swimming pool.

Likewise, another \$116 million proposal, defeated last September, would have enabled a \$42 million facelift at the antiquated, overcrowded facility.

But school board president Da-

vid Flammer said he "didn't think there was anything insidious" about the resignations.

Flammer said Day had made known his intention to step down prior to the February bond issue and that Smith's decision was more unexpected.

About Smith, "he just... decided it was time to do something else. He's of retirement age and who knows what drives people to finally make the decision that they want to retire..."

"I don't think there's anything really tied into what's going on in the building," Flammer continued. "Especially the restructuring day. (Smith) has been a prime supporter of that. If anything, he looked at the program... how successful it is, and feels comfortable in leaving now that he's affected some change."

## Crowd of 9 place bids on board seats

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

There will be a crowded ballot for the Walled Lake Board of Education seats in the June 12 school election. There are nine candidates for three open positions.

Challenger William Drum became the fifth candidate to file for two four-year terms in Walled Lake. He joins incumbents

Samantha Ruetenik, Marc Siegler and challenger Randolph Stein and Harvey Altman.

Voters in the district, which includes northwest Farmington Hills, also will choose one of four candidates for a one-year term. In the fray are Susan Adamson, Patricia Cork, Laura Jerome and Alp Onder.

Siegler, who was appointed in 1994 to step in to a vacancy creat-

ed when trustee Marc Belsky resigned, is running for the seat being departed by trustee Esther McInnis, a two-term board member who is moving out of the district.

All candidates in both districts have until 4 p.m. Thursday to drop out of their respective races.

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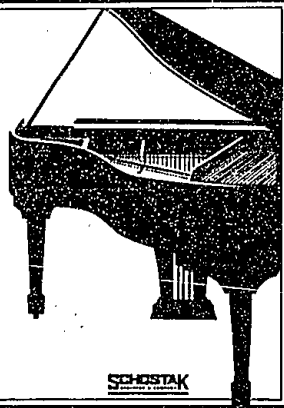
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