

## Schools *from page A1*

Webb said her leadership philosophy is similar to Enberg's, whom she praised during the meeting for an "extraordinary year of leadership."

"I think Linda and I have much of the same leadership styles as far as trying to run a good meeting and an efficient meeting and hopefully making the public feel as though they're warmly received and that their input is extremely valuable to us," said Webb, a Farmington High School parent and Falcon football enthusiast.

During the recent campaign for the June school election, when Webb and Jack Inch were re-elected, some residents said

there is a need for improved communication between the board and public and that decisions should be better explained during meetings.

But Webb defended the board's record in that area and doesn't foresee the need to make major changes during the coming year. She noted that committee meetings are open to the public and that the board discusses key issues both at monthly study sessions and regular meetings.

"I don't see us changing that (procedure) at all," Webb said. "... But we can always do better."

Enberg and Webb literally switched their positions at the board table shortly after the 1998-99 slate of officers was

named. The remaining officers are: Vice President Priscilla Brouillette, Secretary Joseph Svoke and Treasurer Frank Reid.

Before the meeting resumed, Enberg thanked the board, administration and public for their support during 1997-98. Her year as president was marked by the September passage of a bond issue proposal and by the approval of elementary curriculum changes.

"I'd like to thank the board for support and counsel throughout the year. I came in a little

Superintendent Bob Maxfield agreed that there "was a learning curve" for Enberg, but only "30 minutes and a half."

Following the meeting

Enberg, who has one year remaining on her first four-year term, noticed a slight difference in her new role as trustee.

"It's nice to have time to think a little more," she said, laughing. "When you give up the responsibility of talking and keeping the meeting going, you have a little more time to focus on what you're doing. That's pleasant."

Before the new slate was selected, 47th District Judge Marla Parker swore in both Inche and Webb to terms they were elected to serve last month. Both were lauded for being positive examples to the public through their efforts on the board.

"I know each of them have been an example and teacher to the students because of their sc-

## History *from page A1*

the 1998 bid, asking the library board to do an analysis to find out why the 1993 special election bid lost by 386 votes, out of

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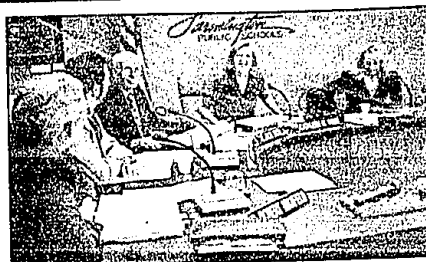
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**Switch:** Superintendent Robert Maxfield lauds outgoing president Linda Enberg following selection of Cathy Webb as board president.

vice to the community," said Parker, prior to administering the oath.

their 21st and ninth year on the board, respectively. Their terms will expire in June 2002.

9,242 votes cast, Papai said. "We lost by very small percentages, out of thousands and thousands of votes cast (in the first two tries)," she said Monday. "At the end of the election in 1993 we did a survey of people, and we went to every house."

Those results were coupled with those from a February survey to "identify the things people anticipate for the library. And hopefully we'll be able to provide them."

The 1993 try would have resulted in the construction of a \$16.5 million library on property owned by the city of Farmington Hills, south of I-696 on Orchard Lake Road.

In 1989, a ballot proposal to construct a new library at 1 Mile-Halsted also failed. The \$14.5 million request lost by 21 votes, out of 19,293 total votes.

Following the second defeat, in 1995, the two city councils asked the library to study alternatives to a new facility. Architects Luckenbach, Ziegelman Associates were selected to do a site study.

Subsequently, after determining the best solution would be to link a second building to the existing Hillis branch, the city of Farmington Hills purchased 2.5 acres immediately west of the library.

Studies followed in 1997, from architect Bob Ziegelman and from Barton-Malow Construction. Those helped the library board identify how much it would cost to expand and renovate the Hills branch and improve the downtown Farmington branch, which was not included in the first two millage attempts.

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