



Tally watch: Incumbent Linda Enberg, left; Superintendent Bob Maxfield and former school board member Joe Svoke pore over election results Monday.

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forefront some important issues," such as doing more to improve communication between the board and public.

According to Jaske, who dropped her second consecutive board bid, the poor voter turnout was almost more deflating to her than losing to Sharp.

She again encouraged state legislators to approve a bill to consolidate school and municipal elections and talked about forming a nonprofit parents watchdog group.

"I think we need to form a parents' group, with more like minds coming together" to publicly air "actual issues that are affecting our kids" such as Michigan Educational Assessment Program testing, Jaske said.

Enberg, meanwhile, described the campaign as "an honest and fair one from everyone."

She also expressed disappointment about the turnout.

"I do think that the educational election idea is one we have to discuss," said Enberg, referring to an idea to hold public school elections in the spring, along with those for college trustees.

The consolidation plan backed by Jaske would differ in that school races would be put on the November ballot. A state House bill co-sponsored by 37th District state Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, is in the works.

"A lot of people don't know there's an election on Flag Day," said Raczkowski, during a post-election party Melody and Kim Jaske hosted for campaign workers and friends. "I'm still perplexed why (the incumbents) oppose election consolidation."

During one of the recent candidate debates, both Enberg and Sharp opposed non-partisan school and partisan political races being held simultaneously.

"School boards are non-partisan positions and should be kept non-partisan," said Sharp during the forum co-hosted by Farmington Area PTA Council and the League of Women Voters-Oakland Area. "If we get involved in the general election, with partisan issues, we're going to get lost in the shuffle."

But Monday night, Jaske reiterated her stance that that wouldn't happen.

"In November we vote for judges, and that's non-partisan," Jaske said. "It's the same thing."

Still interested

Among those at election headquarters was Joseph Svoke, the

former school board trustee. His resignation in August 1998 prompted the subsequent appointment of Sharp to serve until this year's election.

"It's extremely important and something that over the past six years I've gained a greater appreciation for," said Svoke, about the role of school boards. He said his appearance Monday night wasn't linked to the final year of his term being decided.

Svoke also was frustrated by why so few people either came out to the polls or submitted absentee votes.

"The (school) budget is more than the two cities combined

and yet people don't vote," said Svoke, still active with Farmington Families in Action and Farmington Youth Assistance. "I don't know what it is."

Concurring was Farmington Hills resident Barry Brickner, who cast his ballot shortly after 7 p.m. at Precinct 6, O.E. Dunckel Middle School.

"Let's see," mused Brickner. "The school board handles \$120 million and the Farmington Hills City Council handles \$37 million ... But no one pays attention."



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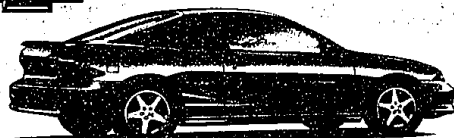
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SCHOOL BRIEFS

Governor's Service Award Recipient Jack Curd, known throughout the district as "Uncle Jack or Grandpa Jack," was recognized by the Farmington School Board June 1 for receiving the Sixth Annual Governor's Service Award.

Uncle Jack was honored at a ceremony hosted by Gov. and Mrs. John Engler in Novi last month. The award recognizes exemplary service in the senior division.

Principal recognized

Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association President **Katy Hill**, William Grace Elementary School principal, was recognized for her service as president of the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association during the 1998-99 school year.

Source: Farmington Public Schools