

# Q&A and majority vote face new council member

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Farmington Hills residents' next city council member will have to survive a Q&A and a majority vote in order to land a seat.

The question at Monday's meeting was: Would Farmington Hills City Council members survive a discussion on the ground rules? The manner on how the next council member will be chosen elicited some sharp comments.

Council members debated how

candidates should apply, their deadline, the date for interviews and even what constitutes a majority vote on a six-member body.

Hills city council members need to appoint a replacement for Terry Sever, who resigned Monday after he was elected to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Council members decided:  
■ Letters of interest are due at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 30, at the Hills City Manager's Office;  
■ Candidates will be interviewed at the Dec. 7 council

meeting; and,

■ Applicants will have at least five minutes for opening statements followed by council questions.

That night, the council could vote and select a person to serve out the rest of the Sever's unexpired term, which ends in November 1999.

After two ballots, candidates who don't receive any votes will be dropped from consideration. However, if there is a deadlock, all candidates will then be reconsidered.

Councilman Jerry Ellis didn't

mince words on the previous selection process, citing the last one when the council appointed Massie Korzeja. Ellis, who hadn't been elected yet, watched the proceedings on TV.

"It didn't look open and honest," Ellis said. "I want an open and honest procedure where people walk in here and their minds are not made up in advance."

Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi called Ellis' comments unfair, saying they are a reflection on council members at the time.

Ellis didn't like narrowing the pool to two candidates after one council vote. If there is a subse-

quent deadlock, there would only be two candidates to choose from, he said.

He also suggested interviews should be done in an informal setting in which residents could ask questions or see the candidates interviewed on TV.

Vagnozzi disagreed. He termed a study session a "semi-private" setting in which residents could not ask questions or see the candidates interviewed on TV.

Council members were sharply divided on the issue of dropping candidates who hadn't received

any votes.

"If they haven't received any votes, it's like we're saying we're going to pick someone nobody wants," said Vicki Barnett, Hills councilwoman. "It doesn't make any sense to me."

Others didn't agree, mainly Councilwoman Cheryl Oliverio, who went along with Ellis' premise the process is unfair to candidates dropped after the first vote. After much wrangling, the matter was settled.

"We've gone back and forth and we've had some compromises here," Vagnozzi said.

## Workshop: Teachers learn about scientific concepts to take back to Farmington classrooms

Using butter, margarine, ice water, and hot water Farmington teachers and student teachers explored physical science concepts. This was one of many activities participants recently engaged in during the first workshop day of Cycle II of the Farmington-Eastern Michigan Science Teaching Project (FEST).

The goals of FEST are to enhance professional teachers' understanding of scientific concepts and to prepare female student teachers to teach science.

Participants are writing science units for the Farmington

school district which integrate research-based best teaching practices with the Michigan Curriculum Framework. Units are centered around the process of disciplined inquiry (questioning, hypothesizing, experimenting and evaluating) which is the heart of modern science.

Each unit will provide district teachers with guidelines and materials for student-led hands-on exploration, integrating technology and authentic assessment.

The learning that will result

from the implementation of these units will engage students in meaningful activities that extend beyond the classroom and foster in-depth learning.

Authentic assessment which is ongoing and criteria based will provide teachers with the information necessary to evaluate student progress in a way that multiple choice tests cannot. The outcomes of the project will be cutting-edge science curriculum

and improved MEAP scores.

The FEST project is made possible by an Eisenhower grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education and is an extension of a long-term partnership between Farmington Public Schools and EMU.

Donna Wissbrun (EMU Supervisor of Student Teachers) and Randall Wright (Science Coordinator for the Farmington Public Schools) are co-directors of the

project which is administered by Georgia Langer (Coordinator of the Office of Collaborative Education at EMU). Project partici-

pants teach at Lanigan, Flinders, Highmewood, Wooddale, Forest, Wood Creek and Gill Elementaries.

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After earning her medical degree at the University of Michigan, Dr. Brysk completed her internship and residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. She is a fellow in the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a member of various other medical associations.

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