

Unions recommend Reid, Christian

By Sue Buck
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The coordinating council representing the four unions in the Farmington Public School District has issued its recommended choice of school board candidates -- incumbent Frank Reid and newcomer Pam Christian.

They best represent the union philosophy, according to Tom Chrzanowski, president of the Farmington Education Association and Zan Alley, who is employed full-time as a Michigan Education Association representative in the Farmington Hills office.

The council is made up of four groups -- the Farmington Education Association, the Farmington Transportation Association, the Educational Support Personnel, and Custodial, Maintenance and Cafeteria unions.

Union philosophy is manifested in a variety of ways including support of issues like educational funding, technology and block scheduling. "Our members like the block," Chrzanowski said.

Interviews May 15 touched on the candidates' overall support of education, whether they would support subcontracting services, technology, on-line teaching, and support of both the Farmington Public School millage (which is also on the June 11 ballot) and the possibility of a countywide special education millage.

Candidates also discussed whether they would add a one-half credit community service requirement to graduation criteria which is included at some other school districts. The council, however, hasn't taken a position on that subject, Alley said.

Also running for school board are Phil Neuman, John Goshorn, Pam Charleston-Lyons and Terence Elsey.

"Many of the issues are common to all," Alley said.

Candidates answered both written and oral questions.

The unions stopped calling their choices endorsements several years ago and now refer to them as recommendations, Chrzanowski said.

The change in verbiage was more palatable to the membership. "We represent a cross-section who are Democrats, Republicans and Independents," he said.

Most candidates answer the union questionnaire. "It's rare when a candidate doesn't respond," he said.

Union concerns are the same from occupation to occupation, and consideration is always given to those who are good listeners, Alley said.

"I'm simply honored to get an endorsement from the people who take care of my biggest assets," Christian said. "It was a nervous process but I just did it from my heart."

Reid said he is delighted to have the recognition and support. "I'm pleased to have the endorsement," he said.

Though Reid didn't receive the union's recommendation four years ago, he believes his hard work on the board gained attention. The Three Pillars project initiated by Superintendent Bob Maxfield two years ago stressed the importance of the administration, unions and associations and the board to understand each others' positions.

"Board members can't micro-manage," he said.

MATH AWARD

Albion College student Eric B. Springer received a William C. and Joyce G. Ferguson Award in Mathematics and Professional Management at the College's annual Honors Convocation held at the end of the school year.

These awards recognize exceptional academic and personal achievement gained by the College's best scholars. Springer is a sophomore at Albion College and is a member of the Carl A.

Gerstaecker Liberal Arts Institute in professional management.

He is the son of Mark Springer and Paula Springer of Farmington and a graduate of Harrison High School.

Albion College is located in southwestern Michigan.

PURDUE HONORS

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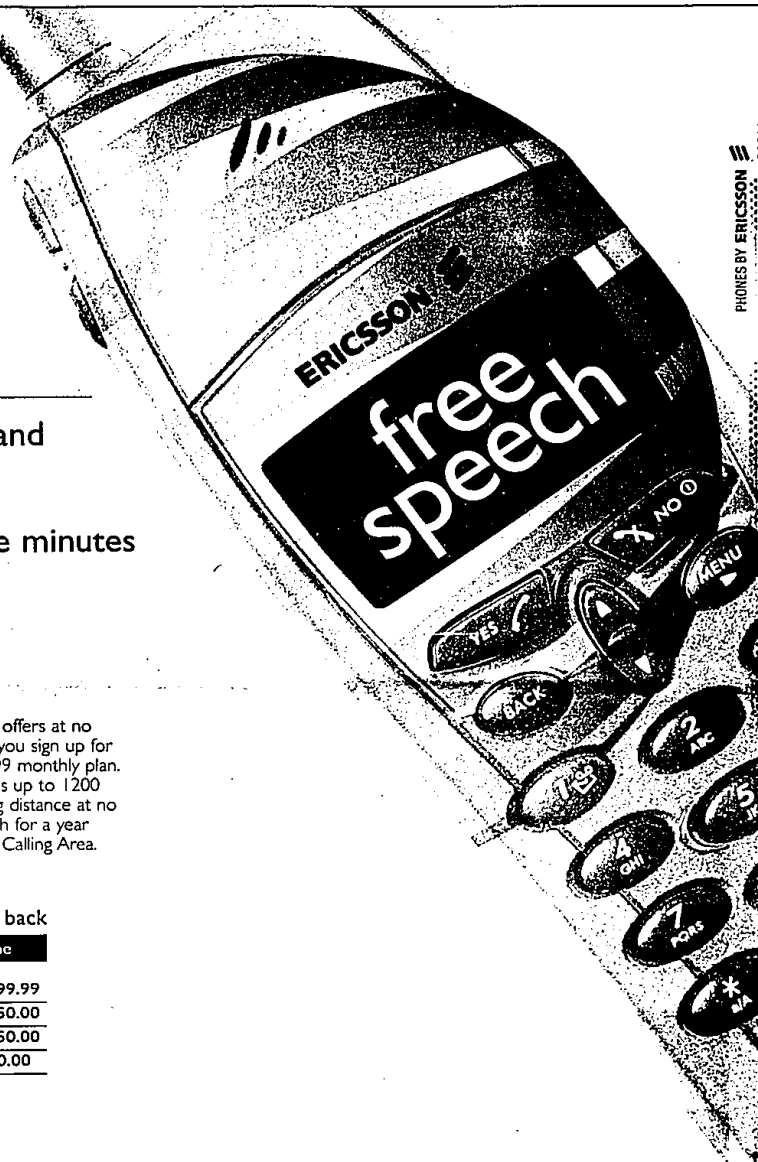
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