

School board candidates spar over moving meetings

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER

One candidate's suggestion that the district consider rotating board meetings to different building locations sparked the most discussion among candidates at a May 7 forum hosted by the Farmington Area Republican Club at Farmington Hills City Hall.

The school board election is June 9. Candidate John Goshorn, a commercial business manager for Ford, brought the idea forward during his last board bid, in 2001.

Candidate Karen Bolsen, who co-chairs the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multiracial Multicultural Community Council and has a consulting business, complained the idea isn't fiscally responsible. She projected the cost at \$700 a meeting.

Goshorn has recommended using students and volunteers to coordinate the event.

Candidate Cheryl Swaim, who co-owns Falcon Stamping in Howell, liked Goshorn's idea and said residents would probably feel more comfortable coming to a meeting on their turf. She advocated more com-

munication and telling the success stories which aren't being told, as a way to build up the self-esteem of that community. "Everyone feels good about themselves and they know they can achieve the goals," Swaim said.

Goshorn further tackled the meeting rotation subject when asked how the district can address real and perceived differences in the quality of each school.

Moving some meetings would be a way for more people to attend, Goshorn said. This would give an opportunity to showcase each of the

schools. With the video equipment there from the meeting, schools could also create a video to show off their building in the best possible way.

"The cost of moving the meetings would be more than outweighed by the value of the video we would end up with," Goshorn said.

Bolsen argued it would be difficult for residents to remember where the meetings were being held. She also addressed this issue of perceived differences between buildings.

"Each school in our district has improvements to make, as

any family, organization or group," Bolsen said. "This is not a perfect world. Families are responsible for working together with administrators, staff and students."

In other remarks, Bolsen said she has "12,000 issues," as many as there are students in the district. She'll work to respond to the needs.

Goshorn continues his involvement with youth through his annual work with teens in an Appalachian work camp. "It helps teens build their faith as we repair the homes of the less fortunate," Goshorn said. "You learn a lot about teens when you spend a week with them in a rural classroom."

Swaim advocated communication, equity, consistency and efficiency. "Being effective in these four areas will give Farmington Public Schools the edge to face any challenges," Swaim said.

It's important to insure the proper resources for students who need special help and to make sure some students don't fall between the cracks, she said.

All candidates picked students as their first priority to serve. They were asked to rank choices that also included administration, parents, teachers and voters.

Candidates also agreed the board's pre-qualifier meetings, which are scheduled up to two hours prior to the 7:30 p.m. regular board meetings, should be televised.

Goshorn added this needs to be weighed against the time the board needs to brainstorm and think outside the box. "They should be allowed some of that time also," Goshorn said. "You need to balance that as much as you can by getting out as much information as you can in the community."

Republican Club members Mike Leads and Christopher Cummins asked questions, which were both planned ahead and taken from the audience. Club member Valerie Knol moderated the event.

The forum will be re-played until election day on cable Channel 8.

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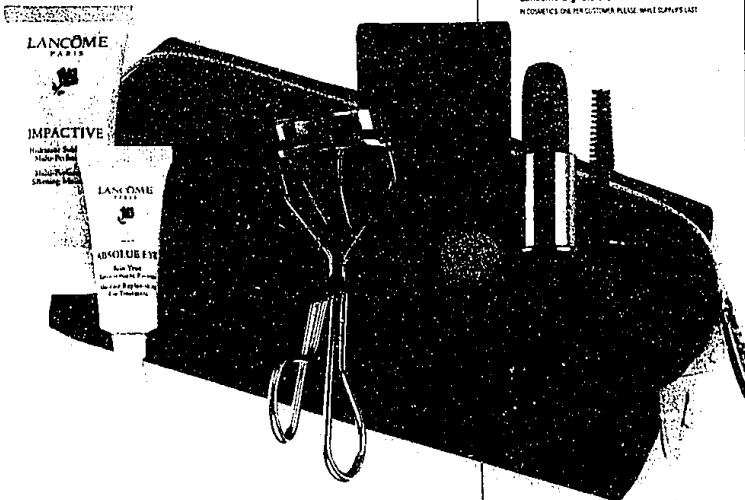
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by Josephine Finazzo D.M.D.
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Arthritis Today

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ARTHRITIS AS A CAUSE OF CHEST PAIN

You may be surprised. Arthritis involves painful and swollen joints. You could think chest pain that would make you think you had a heart attack. The reason relates to the anatomy of your thoracic cage, and the way the lungs work.

Your ribs start from your back, the thoracic spine. The first six ribs end on your breast bone, the sternum. The last six of the ribs form a joint. These ribs to sternum joints are important because their movement allows the chest wall to move forward, expanding the lungs and letting air into the lungs.

These ribs to sternum joints can become inflamed. The result is you will feel pain with each breath; the pain can be intense, and simulate the crushing pain of a heart attack. In time, the cause, called costochondritis, comes out because you feel the worse pain along the sides of your sternum, rather than deep inside the chest or down the left arm. Also, pressure along the side of the ribs at the sternum recreates your pain. In a heart attack, such palpation would cause only a slight ache or no discomfort at all.

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