

# Board President's Statement, Letters On School Situation

## President's Statement

Herewith is published the statement given to the Enterprise for publication by Mrs. Blanche Roos, president of the Board of Education. It is in large part as read by Mrs. Roos at the meeting of the Board last Friday night.

Members of the Farmington Board of Education, Graded District 5, electors and friends of the school:

It has been reported that this Board has been underhanded in its dealings at recent date. The Chair wishes to state that the meeting of February 19, 1930, was a regular meeting of the Board, all Trustees having been notified and a majority present. Therefore, it was legal.

By all parliamentary law, the Board has a perfect right to go into an executive session to eliminate candidates for superintendent or for any other business. The public are interested in only the final result. The highest school authorities say, "Have all school board meetings closed and publish no proceedings."

The Secretary will read a letter from the Department of Public Instruction, Lansing (printed in this issue):

The Board has been courteous to the press and others who have attended the Board meetings.

The Chair wishes to advise that Mr. Gullen, who stated Mr. Crawford was his candidate, refused to leave his application in with the others after repeated requests to do so. Upon his refusal, the resolution concerning the M. A. degree was adopted.

This resolution was not passed to eliminate the running of Mr. Crawford, any more than to eliminate any of the other applicants with only B. degrees. The Board to a person feel grateful to work in the High School and wish to repeat that he has carried the High School for two years. However, a majority of the Board feel at this critical time the elementary grades require a trained, experienced supervisor. The resolution passed for the purpose of raising the standard of the school, is as follows:

Motion made by Macomber, supported by Lee, that all candidates for position of superintendent of school, who will not be in possession of a Master's Degree by September be eliminated.

Gullen, No; Macomber, Yes; Lee, Yes; Roos, Yes.

While a degree is not everything, it does mean prestige and added efficiency. The time is soon coming when the standards for remaining a credited school will be raised.

In the next place, Mr. Gullen stated, "A number of people have telephoned me and come to my house within the last two days to speak for Mr. Crawford for superintendent." The president of the Board has only been approached on the subject by one man, to whom she stated what has been said to the Board, concerning the need of a trained man in the elementary grades.

Then the Chair wishes to state further that she deems it unethical for Board members to circulate petitions concerning applicants for office of superintendent.

The Chair wishes further to say that the minds of the Board are open and unbiased in the choice of a superintendent. Tonight, it will consider the credentials of applicants and leave the best in the running. No final decision will be made.

The credentials remain will be thoroughly investigated and a special meeting called, if necessary, for the purpose of electing a superintendent.

Further, the Chair wishes to state that the Board has endeavored to place the finances of the district on a business basis and beginning July first, the budget plan will be used in the handling of the district's finances.

The Board's secretary, Mrs. Lee, has been efficient and untiring in her efforts for the school. Her books are open and may be consulted at any time.

This district spends enough money to sell to the community the best small school in the Detroit City District.

The Chair wishes further to state if there be those in the community who suspiciously control the school board, the City will never have a school of which it may be proud.

The Chair believes there are fine men and women on both sides (if you recognize a division) that will give their time to know the school and act for its best interests.

of this Board, only men of clean speech and high ideals of the Crawford type shall guide our boys and girls.

The Chair asks your loyalty to the incoming superintendent, for you will either help him to succeed or fail.

The ones who suffer most in any trouble are the ones we love the best, our boys and girls.

—Blanche Wheeler Roos, President.

Department of Public Instruction Lansing, Mich., Feb. 19, 1930  
Mrs. Norman C. Lee  
Farmington, Michigan.

Dear Mrs. Lee:

There is nothing in the law which requires a graded school district to publish the proceedings of any school board meeting. The resolution passed at the annual financial report on or before the first Monday in August. If I remember correctly, you are a graded district. If you happen to be a special act district, you are not required to publish the proceedings of board meetings but I doubt it very much.

The board of education may control its board meetings. They may be private or the board by a majority vote may admit certain ones or the public as a whole.

The resolution passed at the meeting of the Board of Education, February 19, 1930, is a resolution to require that one may call at your office and ask to see the minutes of board meetings. You must exhibit them but you cannot legally permit anyone to take them from your office nor to make a new copy of the same.

Very sincerely yours,  
C. Lloyd Goodrich.

Answers President  
To the Editor:

Relative to the statement read by Mrs. Roos at a so-called meeting of the Board of Education Friday, February 21, 1930, I should like to say a few things.

Whether the controlling majority of the Board has been underhanded in the matter under discussion I cannot say, but it does appear to be exceedingly high-handed in its attitude toward the interested public.

Chapter 110, Section 7 of the Compiled Laws of the State of Michigan, 1915, and the resolution requiring publication in the local paper of all minutes of the meetings of the Board, which was passed at the regular annual meeting of the school district in June, 1928, are the highest authorities to which the Board may look for guidance in the matter of closed meetings and publication of proceedings.

It seems strange, if true, as the President says that Mr. Gullen should without any authority to do so attempt to withdraw Mr. Crawford's application before the Board took the action which in effect barred consideration thereof. More strange still was the method deemed necessary to accomplish this. After a majority of the members present had voted affirmatively on the resolution why was it necessary for the President to add her affirmative vote? This can indicate only over zealousness in carrying out a definite purpose.

Any body of public officials who legally or otherwise insists upon deliberation behind closed doors invites suspicion of their acts.

In assuming to criticize and to define the standard to which fellow members of the Board shall attain the President has, to say the least, exceeded the province of her office.

To Mr. Gullen, I am told, must go the credit for whatever progress has been made toward establishment of a budget system for the finances of the school district, and to the present majority of the Board as might be inferred from the President's reference to this subject.

The first reference which I have heard to the possibility of anyone attempting to make a Sunday School of the day school came from the lips of the President herself. A guilty conscience needs no accusing.

If I may presume, without authority, to speak for those who have signed the petition, I ask only that they be treated fairly and that due consideration be given their expressed wishes; that instead of challenging the public to find out as best it can how they are conducting the affairs of the Board they invite the fullest co-operation and confidence from the public by carrying on the business of the Board in open sessions.

Respectfully,  
W. Allen Nelson.

—A taxpayer in the Farmington School District.

## "M. A."—More Accomplishment?

To the Editor of the Farmington Enterprise.

Dear Sir:

John Hopkins University is one of the leading universities in the United States. Dean Berry of Johns Hopkins says in the American Magazine for February, "What the ordinary college curriculum today represents is simply the accumulated debris of the past three or four hundred years of hit-or-miss instruction. Some of it is plainly superfluous and some of it should be dismissed immediately as the merest rubbish and faddishness."

At least a third of America's graduate students are drifters—mere specialists, of whom it has been said, "They know more and more about less every day."

In some of our most popular universities under-graduates are simply products of stuffing machines, the degree of A. B. becomes a mere label—a standard bonded label on a bottle of booze.

Incidentally, Dean Berry is one of the best administrators the university has ever had and Dean Berry has no college degree whatever.

Farmington is not satisfied with a tried and proven public servant because he can only write A. B. after his name. They want to try a new man who can write M. A. They think M. A. means more accomplishment.

It is more likely to mean the blighting of a lamb (Maanaaa). As Dean Berry says, in effect, it is not the label which counts but the contents of the bottle. Is not the man with four years of university training capable of teaching high school and acting as a capable administrator? If not will one year of extra training give him the necessary capability?

I quote a few lines from an article in the March issue of a nationally known magazine by Paul D. Moody, President of Middlebury College:

"When the average citizen is invited to take a place on the highway commission of his town, or to serve on the tax commission, he will often, he will generally, plead his unfitness due to ignorance. But invite him to serve on the school board. There is an instantaneous acceptance. It does not make any difference if he is an uneducated man himself. He has his theories of education. On most public utilities, water, gas, highways, he acknowledges limitations. But on the most intricate and involved of subjects, education he is perfectly willing to express an opinion. This is why there are so many critics of education in this country. And this is why so much of the criticism is valueless and at the same time why the whole field is as difficult as it is. In this as in many other fields, self-confidence is in inverse ratio to understanding."

Reasons for Signing  
The following open letter was addressed to Mrs. Florence Lee, secretary of the Board of Education, by F. De Vere Fleming, this week:

Mrs. Lee, Secretary, Farmington School Board.

Dear Mrs. Lee:

Mrs. Fleming and I signed one of the Crawford petitions. We want to tell you frankly why.

First: As citizens, taxpayers, and parents we conceive it to be not only our right, but our duty to let you who represent us know our wishes and opinions. Especially is this true when we really feel that a serious mistake is about to be made.

Second: We believe Mr. Crawford would make an excellent superintendent. He is amply qualified and he has earned the right to a fair trial.

Third: An overwhelming majority of students, teachers and parents agree with us. We do not think this community can afford to have the judgment or spirit of fair play of its School Board so seriously and generally challenged.

Neither can we afford to give our teachers or prospective teachers cause to feel that ability and honest effort are not duly recognized in their profession.

Sincerely yours,  
F. De Vere Fleming.

HOUSE IS BURNED  
Fire destroyed an abandoned house near Base Line and Middle Belt roads about 11 o'clock Tuesday night. The Farmington fire department answered a call but was unable to save the building, which was some distance off the paved road.

FOUR MONTHS  
The regular meeting of the Farmington Woman's Club was held at the home of Mrs. L. C. Thayer Wednesday, February 19. The program for the day dealt with the colored race, and their part in the life of America. Miss Foster contributed a paper on the life of Du Bose Heyward and his writings; Mrs. Ritter gave a keen and appreciative review of "Mama's Daughters." Mrs. Crawford set forth "Porgy" and illustrated her account with copious readings from the story; Mrs. Whipple analyzed Dvorak's symphony, "Description of the New World," whose theme is Negro music, particularly the spirituals.

The members of the Farmington Club are invited by the Arché Club of Wayne to attend their drama day program at the Wayne Theatre at 2:30, Friday, February 28.

The next regular meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Henry Pauline Wednesday, March 5. The program is in charge of the Home Economics Committee, who are collecting an interesting exhibit.

H. L. Hard,  
Cor. Sec'y, pro tem.

(Political Announcement)  
To the voters of the Township of Farmington:

I wish to announce that I will be a candidate for the nomination for Township Treasurer at the primaries held March 3, 1930. Your support will be appreciated.

CHARLES A. HABERMEHL  
Feb. 19-27

(Political Announcement)  
To the voters of the Township of Farmington:

I wish to announce that I will be a candidate for the nomination for Highway Commissioner at the primaries held March 3, 1930. Your support will be appreciated.

CLAYTON GOERS,  
Feb. 20-27

## Our School

What is the matter with our School Board? And why do they not obey a direct mandate of the voters of the School District? At the annual school meeting held June 11, 1928 a motion was made and carried by a unanimous vote that on and after that date all proceedings of the Board were to be held in the life of America. Miss Foster contributed a paper on the life of Du Bose Heyward and his writings; Mrs. Ritter gave a keen and appreciative review of "Mama's Daughters." Mrs. Crawford set forth "Porgy" and illustrated her account with copious readings from the story; Mrs. Whipple analyzed Dvorak's symphony, "Description of the New World," whose theme is Negro music, particularly the spirituals.

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## Mr. Cody—And Degrees

To the Editor:  
Mr. Frank Cody, superintendent of Detroit Schools, has been quoted in support of the School Board's rule that the next superintendent must have a master's degree.

People might be interested to know that Mr. Cody himself, on a public statement a short time ago, told of his own schooling, and it showed that he had only a normal school education. It is said that Mr. Cody himself has never had a degree, except honorary ones. But he is president of the National Education Association and head of one of the biggest school systems in the country.

Mr. Cody in the same statement said he is interested in humanizing the work of the classrooms, trying to "make the school not a stilted imitation of some assumed life but rather an integral part of life itself; to make them dynamic rather than academic."

Are we trying to do this when we insist on academic degrees?

One thing more—a man working under Mr. Cody, in a public statement also, said that "in all of his social as well as official relations Mr. Cody is tolerant and broad in his views." If Mr. Cody is to influence us, why not let him influence us along this line?

—A Citizen.

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COLORED RACE REVIEWED AT CLUB

Home Economics Committee Planning Next Program On March 5th

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## FARMINGTON AHEAD OF NORTHTVILLE AT BRIDGE

Bridge players of Farmington Exchange Club leaped ahead of Northville in their tournament Wednesday evening, winning the evening's play by a score of 22 to 14. Play was at Tuckaway Inn.

Farmington's lead thus far stands at eight points, the first play, last week, resulting in a tie. The winning club will receive an Exchange Club bell to be used for calling meetings to order.

TO PRESENT "WOMANLESS WEDDING" IN NORTHTVILLE

"Womanless Wedding," the presentation which caused some laughter in Farmington a few months ago, is to be presented in Northville by the Northville Commandery March 6 and 7, in the Northville School gymnasium.

Tickets may be obtained in Farmington at F. L. Book and Co., Lee Hardware and Otis Boat Works. Reserved seats will go on sale Monday at the Northville Drug Co. store.

SPRING CLEARANCE OF USED CARS UNDER WAY

An unusual spring clearance sale of used cars is under way; by Chevrolet dealers in all parts of the country. Among them is the Farmington agency, Farmington Motor Sales.

Used cars of quality will be sold at substantial reductions during the sale.

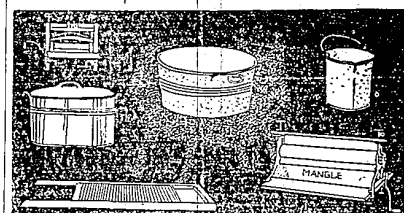
AT BUSINESS SHOW

Farmington Exchange Club was represented at the Detroit Exchange Clubs' business show on Monday afternoon by Arthur Lamb. Mr. Lamb reported that there were 112 exhibits by many lines of business. The show was held in the Book-Cadillac Hotel.

MANY AT COOKIE BAKE

A large number of women attended the home "cookie bake" Saturday afternoon at the Farmington Hardware Co. store. Many dozens of cookies were baked and sold by the ladies of Farmington Methodist Church.

Send or phone in your local items.



## Work Is Play With Our Laundry Tools

THESE ARTICLES SAVE STRENGTH AND SAVE CLOTHES

Take our washing machines—They are simple and efficient. There's not a lot of exposed gears to catch children's fingers and clothes. They are safe and do SPLENDID work.

Then take our line of laundry supplies in general—Wringers, Washboards, Tubs, Wash Boilers, Pails, Clothes Lines, Mops, etc. They are all articles of genuine utility—all quality goods.

You will find our Prices as low as other dealers on standard articles. Check your laundry needs today and fill up on the missing and worn-out articles.

Electric Washing Machines—\$89.50

Wash Boards—Glass 70c; Zinc 50c

Boilers—Galv. Iron, Tin, Copper, \$2.25-\$6

Tubs—5 Different Sizes

Baskets—Splint and Willow, \$1.00 to \$2.50

Pins—Common, 3 doz. 10c; Spring, 10c doz.

Clothes Line—Rope 30c and 50c

Wire, 75c for 100 feet

Brooms, 50c; Dustpans, 10c; Floor Mops, 45c; Garbage Pails, 80c

## FARMINGTON HARDWARE CO.

E. O. HATTON  
TELEPHONE 3

D. L. DICKERSON  
FARMINGTON, MICH.