

School candidate charges

By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—Howard Schwartz broke a solemn promise to himself



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Board is too personally involved

when he became a school board candidate.

"I promised myself I would never run for public office. But after the luncheon, luncheon, and a petulant school board which decided they'd save \$60,000 by cutting the program after they didn't get a millage passed..." he found himself a candidate.

His major complaint is with the focus and direction of the board, which he said becomes too personally involved in issues.

Complaints receive too much attention on board members, before arriving on the desk of the proper administrative official, and that's one of the things Schwartz would like to change.

"I would rely more on the recommendations of the staff on individual problems," he said.

"I DON'T think board members should be personally involved in controversies. It's not a watching. It should set policies," he said.

Which means if it is to guard anything, it should be the policies. And even then, it shouldn't be too confined by them, he said.

"You have to be careful not to repeat past mistakes because that's what you did before," he said.

An attorney, Schwartz would like to see the board become more business-like and concerned with finances and leave matters of education to the educators.

The board should assume the posture of a board of directors, and run the school district as though it were a large corporation. By doing that, the



HOWARD SCHWARTZ

district could avoid wasting taxpayers' money, he said.

Members of boards of directors don't run the corporation's machines by themselves.

"If they're instrumental in getting a class changed for a student, then they've ignored the workings of the system. A lot of people on the board think they're educators, and they haven't the qualifications."

FOR INSTANCE, he is appalled at the number of college students who cannot write well.

"I would put more emphasis on being conversant in one's native tongue without telling Van (Shut, Martin Van Ameyde) how to do it."

He said he is also upset that while nearly 70 per cent of Farmington's

high school graduates attempt college, the district offers no honors or college preparatory programs.

Instead of offering varsity sports for girls, he would like to see the money to support intramural programs.

"What we're trying to accomplish is getting the broadest coverage for the number of dollars. We could get virtually every girl into intramural sports for the amount of money we spend on the 10 per cent who are in varsity."

He would also like more emphasis on vocational education, but not at the cost of the more traditional curriculum.

"It is important to train somebody, but it is also important to make him a literate plumber or whatever."

"If society depends upon people who understand the issues, plumbers should be literate, too," he said.

Schwartz, until recently, has not regularly attended board meetings, but said he has seen enough "to walk out of there screaming."

"The board is picking up the peanuts while the elephants are trampling."

MORE PROFESSIONALS such as doctors and lawyers should become school board members. In fact, he sees it as their duty.

"If there are professionals in the community who can make contributions (by joining the board), they should spend that time. Otherwise, lots of little people are going to see the job for ego gratification," he said.

That may seem a harsh indictment, but as a lawyer, Schwartz doesn't believe in mincing words.

"We charge by the word, so we learn to use them well," he said.

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Samsonite

Surviving are mother Mrs. Violet Tweedale of Farmington and sister Annetta Eldridge of Detroit.

Services were May 24 at the Heene-Sungquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield.

EDNA LOUISE ROSS Mrs. Ross, 91, of Detroit died May 21, 1975, at the King's Nursing Home in Roscommon. She was born in Detroit.

She was a member of Bevel Memorial Presbyterian Church of Detroit.

Surviving are son John F. Ross of Farmington, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were May 24 at the Heene-Sungquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial at Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

VIOLET BRANON Mrs. Branon, 83, of Farmington Hills died May 23, 1975, at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills. She was born in Canada.

She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Farmington.

Surviving are son Kenneth R. of Farmington Hills, brother Clayton Parker, one grandchild and one great-grandchild.

Services were May 28 at Heene-

Sungquist Funeral Home in Farmington with burial at Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

DR. WILLIAM STRANE Dr. Strane, 86, of Novi died April 29, 1975, at the Beverly Manor Convalescent Home in Novi. He was born in Iowa.

He was a life member of the Blazing Star Masonic Lodge and a member of the Detroit District Dental Association and the Bushnell Congregational Church in Detroit.

Surviving are sons Robert and Richard of Farmington and Donald of Redford Township, two sisters, a brother and six grandchildren.

Services were May 2 at the McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington.

Farmington Observer & Eccentric

Published every Monday and Thursday by the Observer & Eccentric Newspaper, 3801 Schoderick Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48150. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, Michigan 48150. Address all mail (subscriptions, change of address, Form 3579) to P.O. Box 340, Livonia, Michigan 48150. Telephone 351-0200.

Co-Publishers Henry M. Regan, Jr. Philip H. Power

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