

Birmingham BOE elects president

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD
 In a break with recent tradition, Trustee Sylvia Whitmer had to overcome competition to become president of the Birmingham Board of Education.

over Trustee Dorothy Eicker in Tuesday's annual election of board officers was a departure from past practice. In recent years a single candidate has been put forward.

The vote was scheduled for Monday, but was postponed because of the absence of newly-elected Trustee Jerold Scheel.

It was apparent Tuesday that had the election been held Monday, the outcome would have been deduced at 3-3.

Scheel, Imogene Angell, William Frever and Mrs. Whitmer cast the four votes for Mrs. Whitmer. Bruce Van Reusen, Donald Chadwick and Mrs. Eicker voted for Mrs. Eicker.

MRS. EICKER, an eight-year veteran on the board, was nominated by Van Deusen who said having two nominees for

president was "not a typical or normal situation in recent years."

Speaking on her own behalf, Mrs. Eicker cited her eight years as a diverse board which will take some leadership skills. I believe I have them."

Following the vote, Mrs. Whitmer thanked those who had supported her and noted, "This is a most unusual situation to be chairing."

As vice-president of the board last year, she had charge of the meeting during the elections.

"I HOPE all of us can pull together behind the

president we have elected," Van Deusen said. "I pledge my complete support." He was elected vice-president for the coming year.

A contest for the board presidency was expected by board members.

Van Deusen said the election was preceded by numerous telephone conversations among board members during the past week.

Mrs. Eicker has served two years as vice-president, three as secretary and one as treasurer during her eight years on the board but has been bypassed consistently for the presidency.

Mrs. Whitmer is in the fourth year of her first term on the board. She failed in a bid for election in June 1974 but was appointed to fill a vacancy in May 1975. She won a four-year term in June 1975.

Mrs. Eicker has been secretary of the board for the past two years and was nominated for the same office Tuesday but declined.

"I have served as secretary and Mrs. Angell has not," she said, and then nominated her.

Mrs. Angell was elected secretary and Chadwick will be treasurer for the coming year.

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