

'I've been involved and I've interested. I think I have a pretty good idea about what the board is doing right now.'

She wants to be deposited on BOE

By Tom Baer
staff writer

Susan C. Rennels, the assistant branch manager of an area bank, hopes she'll give a good account of herself between now and June 13, the date of the Farmington School Board election.

The 39-year-old Rennels, a community activist who has served with Common Cause and the League of Women Voters, is one of six candidates competing for one opening on the Farmington Board.

Should she gather the most votes in the June 13 election, she'll serve a four-year term on the board.

Rennels, a divorced mother of two, has lived on Tuck Road in Farmington Hills for the past 12 years. Her oldest child, a boy, is a graduate of Farmington High School, and her daughter is a ninth-grader at Farmington Harrison.

"I'm running because I'm committed to quality public education," Rennels said. "I feel Farmington has a good system now. It merits the working care necessary to maintain the quality."

Rennels has been interested in serving in government since her high school days at Royal Oak Dondoro (Class of 1961).

"I've always been involved in gov-

ernment," she said. "I was in the student government in high school. After that, I was a volunteer for the League of Women Voters."

Rennels married and started a family shortly after graduation but she never stopped working on a college degree.

"Over a 15 year period," she said, "I was a full-time volunteer, housewife, mother and an off-and-on student. It took me 15 years to graduate."

But graduate she did — with honors, from Wayne State University in 1977. She holds a bachelor of science degree with a major in political science.

SHE CONTINUED her volunteer work. As a founding member of the state chapter of Common Cause, a citizen-interest group, she helped draft the campaign finance law with which she's now complying.

"Through working in that organization, I learned quite a bit about the legislative process," she said. "I was a registered lobbyist for Common Cause."

Rennels said she sees two election issues — declining enrollment and the lack of quality in American education as detailed by the recent report by the National Commission on Excellence in Education.

school board race

Concerning dwindling enrollment, she said, "Everybody has been talking about it, and I think the board has been dealing very effectively with it over the past few years."

"But we're going to have to look to the future, to the next three to five years, to see that it doesn't adversely affect the high school programs. Declining enrollment hasn't hurt the high schools so far, but it's bound to in the future."

Concerning the report, which said the United States is threatened by "a rising tide of mediocrity" in education, she said, "I would like to have a task force, perhaps appointed by the board, to look into the contents of this report and perhaps evaluate it, and at the same time evaluate the Farmington curriculum."

"I think we'd find that the Farming-

ton curriculum is excellent, but I'm sure there are some ideas that could be incorporated. I'm sure the public would be interested."

RENNELS, WHO HAS attended Farmington School Board meetings for years, was a member of the district's task force on vandalism.

"I've been involved and I've been interested," she said. "I think I have a pretty good idea about what the board is doing right now."

Rennels, who works at the First Federal Savings and Loan branch in downtown Farmington, summed up: "I think I can bring to the board four basic qualifications. I've been a community activist and a volunteer. I've been a participant in the schools for a long time. I have a business background. I have a knowledge of the legislative process."



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Susan Rennels, candidate for the Farmington Board of Education, handles some paper work at the First Federal of Michigan branch in downtown Farmington.

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