

School board candidates tell stances

P. Blizman

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nators and with advanced classes in the middle and high schools. But overreliance in the elementary schools and in one of our high schools may cause a sacrifice of some of the larger number of students.

Supplementary materials, field trips and use of other community resources may have to be developed to strengthen the gifted program. Improving the overall school program should also serve to enhance the support for the gifted program.

9. RETIREMENT — Retirement

R.J. Inch

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Farmington School District. The program for the gifted seems to lack an overall plan with objectives of what opportunities are to be made available to this talented group of students. Sometimes, I feel we are confusing acceleration with sustained depth of experience.

It appears to me that one of the places in which our communications fall is in our ability to make clear to the gifted student and their parents what the benefits of the gifted program are.

9. RETIREMENT — The new school employees' retirement law is costing the Farmington Public Schools some of its most gifted teachers. The challenge presented by the retirement to so many gifted teachers is that the quality of our new teachers is outstanding.

10. GRADUATION — I would like to see the math requirement in-

will cause the district to lose some competent and experienced teachers, and give the district an opportunity to hire new, well-qualified and enthusiastic teachers who want to come to our district. This is an opportunity that can be lost without planning and with treating the hiring process as a "business as usual" approach. This could be a time of innovation and creative selection of quality teachers.

10. GRADUATION — I believe four years of English should be a graduation requirement. Every graduate ought to be literate enough to write a letter or read one. Classes

can vary to match the ability of the students. But if our students are going to find jobs, then reading and writing need to be emphasized.

I believe that a one-year government requirement should be a part of the district's expectations for graduation. The complexities of the various levels of government cannot begin to be taught in one semester.

I would also want to look at the one-semester world history requirement. In conjunction with other classes in history, this may be adequate. But for many students, this is one of their last history classes. Frankly, one semester for all of human history seems ludicrous.

concern about the future funding of education in this state is that all districts would be equalized in funding by the state Legislature.

13. PRIORITY — The first priority of the next board should be to allow the new superintendent time to put in place the program that I feel his immense talent and physical drive are capable of producing. The time has come for some dramatic changes which, I feel, Graham Lewis will put into motion.

14. QUALIFICATIONS — After eight years on the board, I have the experience to know my way through what are some very complex problems. Having taught for 30 years, in many different educational settings, I have learned to evaluate problems from all sides. My experience as a parent of four children allows me another facet of experience that would prove of value to the Farmington Board of Education.

11. COMPUTERS — Computer familiarity should be a district goal for all students who have the ability to learn about computers and what they can do. Typing skills should be taught in relation to computer operation.

The danger is that too much time can be spent on redundant computer classes, where students play games that might better be played at home or in an arcade. There is also the danger of sex stereotyping in which girls are counseled to take word processing, preparing them to be secretaries, and boys are taught programming, leading to higher paying and more prestigious employment.

12. FUNDING — I see the local property tax continuing to be the basic financial support for our programs. Except for state-mandated programs paid for by the state, the size of our tax base seems capable of adequately funding our district. The danger may be that the state may attempt to equalize per-pupil expenditures and reduce state funding, even for mandated programs in out-of-formula districts like ours.

13. PRIORITIES — The first priority should be halting deterioration of the physical plant. I also believe in supporting the new superintendent in a review of the organizational

structure of the district to determine the most effective way to lead the district in the years ahead.

14. QUALIFICATIONS — Voters should support my candidacy because I believe in quality: quality buildings, quality teachers, quality programs, which together can produce a quality education for our students.

I am not a part of the educational system but I am well educated. As a lawyer, I have both business and professional experience. In addition, as a counselor I have experience and training in human development, in educational theory and in personnel management.

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