

Prutow replaces Rennels as board prexy



BOB SKLAR/staff photographer

Helen Prutow (left) takes over for Susan Rennels as board president during Monday's school board meeting — but they fought to switch their nameplates.

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phasis on education. That's exciting. And I'm so excited to be here and part of it."

Signaling her widening involvement in the world of education, Prutow is also a trustee of the Oakland Intermediate Schools Board of Education and the Michigan Association of School Boards' Legal Trust Fund.

During the coming school year, local priorities will include enriching curriculum and staff development under the leadership of newly appointed assistant superintendent Judith White. "We'll be providing strong support for that enrichment," Prutow said.

Another priority will involve building repairs, renovations and additions. "We have some major structural needs," Prutow said.

'Some of the biggest challenges you don't know about until they develop.'
— Helen Prutow,
Hills resident

TRUSTEES ALSO must meet whatever building needs become necessary if five-year projections of a slight increase in elementary students pan out, Prutow said.

In accepting the presidency, Prutow praised outgoing president Rennels "for the manner in which you brought this board and the school district through what was a tumultuous year of events."

Prutow listed:
• Sale of district property to Little Caesar International.

• Formation of a districtwide task force to study the future.
• Hiring of a new superintendent to replace Lewis Schulman, who retired.

• Debate over Farmington Hills' proposed tax increment finance authority.
• Establishment of Cable-TV 10 as the community's educational channel.

• Issuance of tax anticipation notes.
"You made it seem easy," Prutow

said.

IN TURNING over the gavel, Rennels characterized her year at the helm as "very long, very interesting, very eventful and very challenging."

"We learned a great deal in a wide variety of areas," she said.

Rennels urged fellow trustees to continue their emphasis on getting out into the community.

"I hope we can continue the tradition of trying to participate in the community as much as possible," she said. "Both the schools and the community stand to benefit."

Cotton praised Rennels "for her skill and leadership, particularly with regard to selection of a new superintendent."

"What a hard act she is to follow," Prutow added. "I will do my best."

New assistant superintendent is named

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central office, Lewis said of the previous structure, in which Nutter oversaw only secondary education for the district.

Former assistant superintendent for elementary instruction Lawrence Freedman has moved into the personnel arena, where he will handle employee recruitment — a major undertaking for schools throughout Michigan since recent legislation is allowing record numbers of employees to retire.

Robert Coleman will continue to handle all employee relations, including negotiations with the district's collective bargaining representatives, Lewis said.

White's short-term goals will be to design a professional development center for the staff and get needed training, from both inside and outside of the district, to provide the proper training tools.

She will immediately begin inter-

viewing staff members to determine overall needs. "Once needs are established, . . . we design a program to meet those needs," she added.

Arriving from Ypsilanti, a district with about half of Farmington's student population, White plans to carefully review the avenues of communication throughout the district and make sure they're effectively used, she said.

THE NEW assistant superintendent holds a master's degree in certified reading from Michigan State University and a bachelor's degree in social studies and art from Eastern Michigan University. She has also studied advanced educational administration at Michigan State.

She began her educational career in 1966 as a teacher and reading consultant for Ypsilanti Public Schools, serving as president of the Ypsilanti Education Association for 1976-77.

From 1977 to '82, she was curriculum coordinator in Ypsilanti. From

1982 to '84, she worked as director of curriculum and state and federal programs before being appointed to meet those needs.

She is experienced in program design, grant writing, various professional presentations and has been published in the Michigan Reading Journal and the Secondary Reading Council Journal.

Her memberships in professional organizations are extensive, includ-

ing a high activity level in the Ypsilanti Principals and Administrators Association.

Personal interests include history, community and youth groups and her family. White was active in her local historical society, founded a local children's museum, was active in a citizens for better schools group and has also participated in Optimist Club activities.

Camp signup continuing

Places in the Learning Disabled Camp are still available for the third session, July 21-31.

Designed to enhance proper behavior skills and to help develop fine/gross motor skills in a social atmosphere, this new camp program provides a comfortable setting for learning disabled children, 9-13.

Camp runs Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, Building B. Fee is \$70 per person. Registration is being accepted at the Recreation Division of the Farmington Hills Department of Special Services. For more information, call 473-9570.

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Foods that may help reduce the risk of gastrointestinal and respiratory tract cancer are cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, cauliflower.

Fruits, vegetables and whole grain cereals such as oatmeal, bran and wheat may help lower the risk of colorectal cancer.

Foods high in fats, salts or nitrite-cured foods such as ham and fish and types of sausages smoked by traditional methods should be eaten in moderation.

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