

election '90

More candidates

Name: Kimi D. Jaske
Address: Larkspur, Farmington
Employment: Tax accountant, Electronic Data Systems
Length of residence in district: 30 years

Why are you running for the school board?
A 16-month-old, beautiful, bouncing baby daughter has come into my life and I really believe the time has come for me to give my God-given talents to ensure when the time comes for her to go to school, her educational needs will be met. If I wait and leave it to the next guy, it may be too late.

What special qualifications do you bring to the job?
Youth, vim and vigor and a wealth of business knowledge gained working for the government and corporate America; integrity and an intense desire to compete accompanied these traits in order to achieve

the goals of the team while not jeopardizing the trust bestowed upon me by the public; a willingness to try new ideas and gamble on fresh approaches to problem solving.

What do you perceive as the strengths and weaknesses of the current board? What is their role?

Strength is that the current members work very hard. Weaknesses include in the public's mind an accountability problem, i.e., no one seems to know why there is a discrepancy in our elementary school programs; nor does anyone profess to be at fault for the below-normal test scores being registered by our graduating high school classes.

How do you feel about public education, its role and how Farmington measures up?

Besides our right to vote, the most important right we as citizens in our truly wonderful democracy have is the right to a free public education. Farmington is scoring below the norm in this category (even a vast difference in the quality of education a child in elementary school receives). Let young parents know they

should be involved early, when they can make a difference.

What are the top three things on which the district should focus in the next four years?

Curriculum are out of balance; too many choices for most students to know what to take; back to the three R's. Teachers need more assistance; spend more of the budget on actual instructional programs; Farmington spends below the average in this crucial area. Students and parents need to be made accountable... what ever happened to homework?

There is currently a study of the gifted education programs in Farmington. How would you propose changing this program?

Without getting into specifics, let me say, as the president of the Farmington Lions Club programs, the gifted program currently being proposed in Farmington is very important to us all. We in Farmington have the opportunity to make our program truly a model for others in our state... Oh, the joy in making a child smile.

Name: Cathleen M. Webb
Address: Rutgers Drive, Farmington Hills
Employment: Self-employed freelance retail hardlines artist, CMW Advertising Art
Length of residence in district: 10 years

Why are you running for the school board?

Through my recent involvement with the attendance committee, facilities study, community education council and Gill PTA, I've realized my desire and commitment to represent our children. My interest in serving the community would support the continued involvement of parents, citizens and staff at all levels of decision-making. As a parent, I want to be part of creating a great school system for our children.

What special qualifications do you bring to the job?

I will come to the board with a fresh perspective and an open mind. I have an understanding of educational programs and the district; a demonstrated commitment to serve; an ability to work constructively

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(F&A)

with administration, board, staff and parents to achieve positive results; the time to devote to the task; established credibility; no hidden agendas, special interests or grievances. I base decisions on facts.

What do you perceive as the strengths and weaknesses of the current board? What is their role?

The board continues to encourage teamwork and open communication with our community, staff and students. We need members who have children in our schools and a "hands-on" perspective. I bring a parent's point of view and will use that in consideration of educational options that will serve our children.

The role of board members is to develop policy, monitor finances, work with the superintendent, represent the children and citizens.

How do you feel about public education, its role and how Farmington measures up?

Our Legislature is charged with the responsibility to see that "schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." The board assures that educational opportunities are made available to all its children. As with any large system, there are strengths and weaknesses, room to improve. Our district provides a wide range of services and options to meet the needs of our diverse student population.

What are the top three things on which the district should focus in the next four years?

Overcrowding — provide short/long term planning, provide space for K-12 curriculum, enrichment, athletics, technology, special services; open enrollment in all schools.

Assessment — continue to evaluate our curriculum and programs; achieve higher test scores; set high expectations and goals; recognize success, replace failure.

Accreditation — focus on bringing district on line in compliance with state-required school improvement planning; consider North Central in preparation for state accreditation.

There is currently a study of the gifted education programs in Farmington. How would you propose changing this program?

Our gifted students and families have needs that must be addressed. How, is the challenge. Changes should include: more enrichment time; curriculum that allows individual acceleration; opportunities for creative expression; interaction with peers; identification of underachievers (once identified, focus on needs and provide mentors); more staff development and education on needs of gifted; cooperative learning with coordinators and classroom teachers; team teaching may be an option.

Name: Sharon A. Hands
Address: Fredericksburg, Farmington Hills
Employment: assistant director/coordinator, adult and community education, Redford Union Schools
Length of residence in district: 10 years

Why are you running for the school board?

My purposes for choosing to run for the Farmington school board are: 1. I would like to share my educational experience and administrative background with the school district and the community. I feel that I can make knowledgeable, wise choices for the school district. 2. I would like to see a good school board become even better by insuring that all its members are fully informed on all school issues relating to curriculum, school law, state laws, etc. 3. I have two children at the elementary and middle school level and would like them to receive the best possible education available.

What special qualifications do you bring to the job?

My 15 years' experience in the educational field as high school instructor, adult education counselor/coordinator, certified administrator

in the state, K-8 building administrator and assistant director for community education gives me an insight into all areas of school staffing, budgeting, pupil accounting, scheduling, legal issues and curriculum development, which are critical when deciding upon school and district policy.

What do you perceive as the strengths and weaknesses of the current board? What is their role?

The school board has two major functions: to set/decide school policy and to hire the superintendent. I feel the current school board has done a good job in these functions. They appear to be well-informed and seem to be attentive to the concerns of the community. I strongly believe that a board is only as good as the members that comprise it. If we continue to keep the board well-informed and continue to elect members who are knowledgeable, we will maintain an effective board.

How do you feel about public education, its role and how Farmington measures up?

I have always been a firm believer in the public educational system. Because of its resources and talents, the greatest number of students can be served. However, is not a perfect system. Certain aspects of public education will always be a concern. Equalization of allocated spending for public education school districts is one area. I do feel, how-

ever, that Farmington does a good job in providing quality education to the community.

What are the top three things on which the district should focus in the next four years?

I would like to see the school district focus on the following areas:

a. Provide a safe learning environment and a positive atmosphere in all of our school buildings.

b. Re-evaluate the graduation requirements for high school and the state four years of English, mandate a personal finance/economic credit and computer credit.

c. Provide a counseling staff for all students, elementary through high school.

d. Encourage greater involvement by parents/community members in all our schools, specifically middle school and high school.

There is currently a study of the gifted education programs in Farmington. How would you propose changing this program?

When the district implemented the gifted program, certain goals and objectives were to be attained. If, for whatever reason, these goals and objectives are not being met, then a re-evaluation of the current program must take place. My understanding is that currently an advisory group is looking into the gifted programs. Once they have done this, then if a change is recommended, I would support such a change.

Candidates night canceled

The Farmington school board candidates night, scheduled for May 22 as part of the general membership meeting of the Council of Homeowners Associations of Farmington Hills, has been canceled.

The decision to cancel the event was made at the COHA board meeting May 8. It stemmed from the scheduling conflict between the candidates night and the school board meeting rescheduled from May 15 to May 22 and the budget/truth-in-taxation meetings to be held just before the school board meeting.

Candidates are invited to drop off campaign literature before COHA's regular general meeting on May 22 so it can be available to the COHA membership. That meeting will be held, as scheduled, at 7 p.m. in the Farmington Community Library at 12 Mile and Kendallwood Drive in Farmington Hills.

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