

9 are in running for 2 seats on Farmington school board

CANDIDATES will be hot on the campaign trail during the next few weeks, preparing for the Monday, June 11, Farmington school board election.

The names of nine candidates will appear on the ballot, at which time two non-partisan seats on the seven-member board will be filled.

Of the nine contenders, eight returned an Observer questionnaire about issues surrounding this year's race. Those whose answers are featured here are challengers Cathleen Webb, Allen Warner, Laura Myers, Robert Ranney, Kim Jaske, Sharon Rands, Richard DeVries and incumbent R. Jack Inch.

Another candidate, James Barnes, said he did not intend to actively

election '90

campaign but missed the deadline to remove his name from the ballot.

All have filed to run for one of two four-year terms, which become available when the terms of Inch and Janice Holnick expire June 30. Inch, the board treasurer, has served three four-year terms and is seeking a fourth. Holnick, the board secretary, is not seeking re-election after 12 years of service.

PRESENTED HERE on Pages 2-3 are five questions asked of each candidate, with their verbatim answers except when editing was required

due to excessive length. Other questions were featured in the Observer on Monday, May 14.

To vote in the June 11 election, residents must have been registered by May 14. Voters also will fill three seats on the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees.

A candidates night originally scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, sponsored by the Council of Homeowners' Associations of Farmington Hills, has been cancelled.

School board members are paid \$30 per meeting attended up to one a day and \$2 a year.

The Farmington school district includes all of the city of Farmington, most of the city of Farmington Hills and a portion of West Bloomfield Township.

on drug usage.

Are you excited enough about the Highmeadow Common Campus pilot program to consider a second, similar lottery/enrichment program at the elementary level? Why or why not?

The early reports on the Highmeadow Common Campus project have certainly been favorable.

If the "final" report after this year's operation are in the same vein as the preliminary reports, serious considerations to a second school or schools have the highest priority. Once more, the facts must be presented before a meaningful policy can be placed in operation.

How well does the district provide equal opportunity for all students — college prep, job-bound, bilingual, special ed and others?

Having had three children graduate from the Farmington schools, I can say they have been prepared to enter and achieve success in college. Two graduated from MSU and a third is completing his junior year at the University of Illinois.

My experience with job-bound, bilingual and special ed is more limited but from my years in the community and on the board, it is my impression that opportunity is available in these programs.

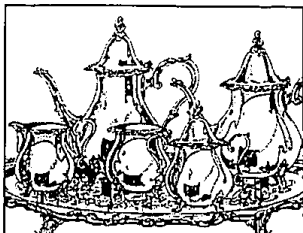
Name: R. Jack Inch
Address: Meadowlark, Farmington
Employment: Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge Campus, economics professor
Length of residence in district: 30 years

How can the district best raise student learning skills while striving to keep the dropout rate down?
The best way to raise student learning skills is to have a K-12 program stressing R. Jack Inch continuity, with consistency of presentations and goals apparent to the student. Also, an early identification of student difficulties with basic learning skills and a quick, clear, direct program of aid for those who don't reach "our" standards.

The way to reach the peridot goals of raising student learning skills and keeping the dropout rate down is for the teacher in the classroom to make it worthwhile for every student to be in that classroom at every opportunity.



● Your hometown voice ● Your hometown voice ● Your hometown voice



silver repair clinic

Saturday, May 19
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Livonia

Meet James Moorman, an expert from the finest and oldest restoration company in America. He will offer his counsel on repairing, refinishing or replating your sterling or silverplate tea service, candlesticks, serving pieces and flatware. Combs, brushes, mirrors and dresser sets can also be restored. You'll be pleased with the beautiful results.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA® and American Express.
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

Board candidates square off over money, education issues

By Susan Buck
staff writer

Candidates forum set

Seven Farmington school board candidates squared off Monday on diverse issues ranging from preferential contract award bidding to unionized workers to what constitutes basic education in the 1990s.

Nine candidates are vying for two non-partisan trustee seats on the Farmington Board of Education. Appearing at a candidates forum at Farmington High School were: challengers Richard DeVries, Laura Myers, Sharon Rands, Robert Ranney, Allen Warner, Cathleen Webb and incumbent R. Jack Inch.

Kim Jaske did not attend but forwarded a statement. James Barnes said he missed the deadline to remove his name from the ballot.

The forum was co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the West Bloomfield-Farmington Area and the American Association of University Women-Farmington Chapter.

Neither national organization supports particular parties or candidates, but supports issues. Deborah Macon of West Bloomfield moderated the question-and-answer period.

THE AWARDED of school contracts to union vs. non-union contractors has been an issue during recent Farmington school district construction and renovations.

"Because I come from a union family on both sides, my wife's and my side, I have a little different attitude toward unions than some people here," Inch said.

The Farmington Area Democratic Club will host a community forum for the nine Farmington school board candidates on Wednesday, May 23.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Botsford Inn, 29000 Grand River, Farmington Hills.

"I don't view professional organizations as being different than unions. The same people who would hire non-union help as electricians would have an absolute fit if we hired accountants who were not certified or did not have a degree."

DeVries favored setting certain specifications for workers and continuing the policy of awarding to the lowest bidder.

"I do not believe that we should restrict the awarding of bids just to companies that are unionized. I don't think that the companies that we are dealing with that are non-union are exactly paying slave wages to their employees."

The district shouldn't change its policy, Myers said also.

"I think what matters most is the quality of the work and that the company produces what it says it is going to do."

In every school district, choosing a large contractor is a major decision,

Rands said.

"There is a certain process that must be presented to the board and the finance committee. The decision should be based on quality of the work performed at the best price." Ranney agreed the school district should get the best value for the money but should not encourage paying of below-standard wages for work.

"We should look at the differential in quality and cost between what the union contractor provides as well as the non-union contractor."

"Personally, we have to have some kind of protection for the working people of the world so that they are not forced into bidding against each other and pushing their families toward the poverty level."

Warner disagreed strongly with some remarks that were made.

"Decisions should not be made based on whether a contractor is unionized. I respect the rights of workers to organize and to not organize."

"Let's not confuse the issues. Examples given of certification and degrees are issues independent of unionization. I am a certified public accountant. It has nothing to do with belonging to a union or not belonging to a union. This is a taxpayers issue."

Webb agreed that board policies should not be set based on unionization.

"The board must assure that the person who gets the job is dependable and can get the work done on time."

Please turn to Page 10

Children's Shoe Mart

SNEAKER WEEK



1st Pair Regular Price
2nd Pair
50% OFF
Equal or Lesser Value
Now Til May 20, 1990

CHILDREN'S SHOE MART quality price fit

Hours:
Daily 10:00-6:00
Friday 10:00-9:00
Saturday 12:00-5:00

Farmington
Grand River near Farmington Rd.
478-7611

IT'S A BUYER'S MARKET!
WE'VE GOT THE BEST PRICES IN TOWN!

• ONE WEEK ONLY •

AMERICAN MADE OAK ROLLTOP DESKS

Oak Crest Manufacturing

FEATURING: • LOCKING ROLLS • 2 FILE DRAWERS • RECESSED PANEL DESIGN • LIQUOR FINISH
• FULLY FINISHED DRAWERS • LIGHT OR DARK STAIN • SOLID BRASS HARDWARE



Reg. \$1705
\$999



Reg. \$1810
\$1,199

Sale Ends 5-26-90

Classic Interiors

Fine Furniture...where quality costs you less

20292 Middlebelt, Livonia • South of 8 Mile
474-6900

Mon., Thurs., Fri. 9:30-9:00; Tues., Wed., Sat. 9:30-5:30