

election '90

More candidate profiles

Name: Cathleen M. Webb
Address: Rutgers Drive, Farmington Hills
Employment: Free-lance retail headlines artist, CMW Advertising Art
Length of residence in district: 10 years



Cathleen M. Webb

How can the district best raise student learning skills while striving to keep the dropout rate down?
Most important, high expectations must exist for all children. There must be appropriate learning activities to challenge all students to reach their potential. Programs, including creative learning activities, "hands-on" experiences, enrichment, self-esteem, mentors and job shadowing benefit all students. We must identify our "at risk" students as early as possible and immediately apply these programs to their learning experience.
How do you feel about sharing costs for public improvements with local governments?

Through the community education council, I have observed how other community councils share their resources and work together. Whenever costs are shared for public improvements, within the parameters of the law, we all profit. By communicating goals and combining resources, more services can be provided for the entire community. Our facilities become more accessible, duplication of programs is eliminated and taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.
How do you feel the district is handling problems with drugs in the schools?
More education is key to the prevention of substance abuse. Our schools need to work with parents and our entire society to address this national tragedy. Raising student self-esteem, through enrichment, is essential. We must interact with law enforcement, business, media, Farmington Families in Action, Farmington Youth Assistance and student assistance teams to maintain a tough policy with strict penalties and opportunities for rehabilitation.
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?
I sense community interest in choices, including a structured, extension time offering enrichment of the law, we all profit. By communicating goals and combining resources, more services can be provided for the entire community. Our facilities become more accessible, duplication of programs is eliminated and taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.
The facilities study is exploring choices that include year-round, alternative schools, and center programs.
How well does the district provide equal opportunity for all students—college prep, job-bound, bilingual, special ed and others?
Opportunities exist for all students in our district. More individualized assistance has been available for high and low achievers, as well as students with special learning requirements.
We must be sure that all students receive the assistance they need to take advantage of the opportunities available to reach their potential.

Name: Richard I. DeVries
Address: Chesapeake Court, Farmington Hills
Employment: structural optimization engineer, Ford Motor Co.
Length of residence in district: 10 years



Richard I. DeVries

How can the district best raise student learning skills while striving to keep the dropout rate down?
The district can do this by providing, in North Central's terms, a "quality with equity" education for all students. I think this can be implemented by providing greater individualization of the curriculum at all levels, making it relevant to our students' needs, and identifying "at risk" students earlier.
Our students need better counseling to define career/educational objectives and develop personal values.
How do you feel about sharing costs for public improvements with local governments?

Ultimately, all tax dollars and public infrastructure belong to the same source, the taxpayers of this community.
Although there are exacting restrictions as to how school taxes can be spent, there are times when cooperation and coordination between government units can result in more efficient use of tax dollars, especially when the public improvements are to the primary benefit of the school system.
How do you feel the district is handling problems with drugs in the schools?
I am encouraged by community efforts against substance abuse but will not be satisfied until our schools and community are drug free.
The majority of drug education programs nationwide have been demonstrated to be ineffective or even counterproductive; therefore, the district's efforts must be continually and realistically evaluated with respect to their effectiveness.
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?

Our son, Robert, has attended Highmeadow for two years and HCC, like any pilot program, has generated "excitement." New curriculum and pedagogy, however, must be rationally evaluated against student outcomes and district objectives.
Successful aspects of this program are presently being implemented at other elementary facilities. Highmeadow should continue to be monitored and evaluated vis-a-vis the many other successful programs throughout the district.
How well does the district provide equal opportunity for all students—college prep, job-bound, bilingual, special ed and others?
Our schools must achieve "quality with equity" education and support reduction in inequities between our schools/programs with respect to class-size, curriculum offerings, facilities and athletic programs.
Of special concern, the administration of special education programs is perceived as adversarial and equity for its students might be better achieved by educating all children to their maximum potential and better following special education regulations.

Name: Laura Myers
Address: Shilohwood, Farmington Hills
Employment: Bookkeeper, Jimco Realty
Length of residence in district: 8 1/2 years



Laura Myers

How can the district best raise student learning skills while striving to keep the dropout rate down?
All students should learn a practical, marketable skill regardless of their plans after high school. We can add a requirement for practical arts classes, as well as fine arts and computers, by dividing the high school day into seven periods instead of six. Music and art education helps us to value ourselves. Students will be shut out of the future unless they are computer literate.
How do you feel about sharing costs for public improvements with local governments?
I would support a shared venture

that benefits students, such as sports facilities. We must remember that our main purpose is education and be careful not to duplicate facilities and services already provided by local governments and community groups. The bulk of our tax bill goes to finance our schools and the school board must ensure that those tax monies are used wisely.
How do you feel the district is handling problems with drugs in the schools?
I am pleased that secondary school staff have formed core teams and student assistance teams to educate staff and encourage students to stay drug and alcohol free. Substance abuse is a community problem and the school district cannot provide the answers alone.
The community group, Farmington Families in Action, does an excellent job of assisting with the district's drug and alcohol education program.
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?

Highmeadow is a success. It satisfies parent's desire for choice and encourages them to take an active part in their children's education. Highmeadow is also a special situation. It was conceived to alleviate overcrowding without boundary changes.
Some of Highmeadow's innovations should be adapted to the neighborhood school where after-school friendships and parent organizations are easier to maintain and transportation isn't a problem.
How well does the district provide equal opportunity for all students—college prep, job-bound, bilingual, special ed and others?
There are considerable differences in programs and services across the district. We have only one "state of the art" media center. Some technology and science courses are available in only one building. Gifted programs vary between middle schools.
We need to protect specialized, low-enrichment courses to make them available to all students. Special services and enrichment courses should be part of every elementary school.

Name: Robert Ranney
Address: Greening, Farmington Hills
Employment: Consulting engineer, Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.
Length of residence in district: 2 1/4 years



Robert Ranney

How can the district best raise student learning skills while striving to keep the dropout rate down?
We should ensure at all our elementary schools, students master the basic skills (reading, writing and mathematics) as early as possible. Our goal should be 100 percent scores on the fourth grade MEAP. If a child falls behind this early, he may never catch up. We should also try to teach our elementary school children the self-disciplines they need for learning.

How do you feel about sharing costs for public improvements with local governments?
When a project is a direct benefit to education, and is one that the school district would have undertaken anyway, we should cooperate with local governments in order to obtain a greater value for our money.
How do you feel the district is handling problems with drugs in the schools?
The district is doing a good job with detection programs at the elementary level, but more needs to be done at the higher grade levels. I would propose closing our high school campuses to limit comings and goings during the day, and trying to get parents more involved in their children's lives.
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?
I would not consider another program that bases admissions on a lottery, as we should offer a full education to all of our students, not just an elite few. Instead, I would support an enrichment program, similar to that planned for Forest Elementary, that could be implemented at all the elementary schools. What does excite me is Larkshire's NCA accreditation.
How well does the district provide equal opportunity for all students—college prep, job-bound, bilingual, special ed, and others?
The job-bound and special ed students in our district should get more attention. It seems that the need for our job-bound students to train on state-of-the-art equipment is not appreciated in some quarters. As for the special education students, a major review of their program should be undertaken as soon as possible.

Name: Allen P. Warner
Address: Perrys Crossing, Farmington Hills
Employment: Faculty member, Department of Accounting, Wayne State University. Teaches senior and graduate courses in accounting and information systems. Coordinator, School of Business Administration's MIS Program.
Length of residence in district: 1 1/2 years



Allen P. Warner

How can the district best raise student learning skills while striving to keep the dropout rate down?
These are not opposing goals. In my experience, raising student learning skills is one of the ways to keep the dropout rate down. As we improve our educational delivery system, we increase our students' skills and knowledge, better preparing them for the future. We accomplish this by supporting our teachers in every

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



Sharon A. Rands

How can the district best raise student learning skills while striving to keep the dropout rate down?
One effective method of preventing students from leaving school and becoming discouraged is to provide adequate counseling at all levels.
Too many young adults "fall between the cracks" and are provided with little or no direction when asked to decide which course/courses they should take.
I would support a district policy in which counseling services are provided to all students to ensure a smooth transition from one level to the next.
How do you feel about sharing costs for public improvements with local governments?
I feel that our city, county and state governments should provide

way we can, including curricula, materials, training, technology and appropriate class sizes.

How do you feel about sharing costs for public improvements with local governments?
To the extent that public improvements benefit the schools, a fair sharing of costs would seem appropriate. However, the improvements must be in accordance with school priorities.

How do you feel the district is handling problems with drugs in the schools?
The district must do even more to address the issues of substance abuse and sexually transmitted diseases. As a parent, I worry about drugs and AIDS as the greatest dangers our children face today. We need to improve our educational efforts and our coordination among parents, teachers, police and the local community.

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?
I await the findings of the gifted committee, but might expect considerations such as establishing: 1.) director of gifted education, and 2.) a "school within a school" or "specialty within a school" concept.
The latter would be supported by integration of computer technology throughout the curriculum. We should note that improvements in the gifted program will cascade throughout the other programs.

able and offered to the schools that were overcrowded first, leaving whatever slots left to the remainder of the district.
Many parents may have wanted their child to attend Highmeadow but were not given an opportunity based on the particular school they were registered in. If a more equalized lottery system were instituted, I would be in favor of offering another similar program to other elementary schools.
How well does the district provide equal opportunity for all students—college prep, job-bound, bilingual, special ed and others?
I would say the district does an adequate job of offering a cross-section of courses needed to fulfill the requirements for college bound, job bound and special education students. I do not know what programs are offered to bilingual students in the district.
The vocational education department, in cooperation with the voc tech center in Walled Lake and the co-op department, offers students the opportunity to experience "on the job" training and work at various businesses, while receiving high school credit.
My understanding also is that special education students are also given the opportunity to experience job-related training.

public improvements to the community. The schools, public buildings, parks, roads, etc. are all part of the community.
Improvements must be made in order to attract new members to our community and encourage them to stay.
How do you feel the district is handling problems with drugs in the schools?
The district has programs implemented to keep the students well-informed of the consequences that result from drug usage.
I would strongly encourage a mandated drug prevention program be adopted by the district, if one has not already been adopted. All the added measures the district has implemented should be maintained and expanded (i.e. crisis team, drug counselor, etc.).
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?
My understanding is that the Highmeadow Common Campus program was instituted to meet overcrowding in certain schools and offer a program in which student could choose courses not offered at the traditional school.
Three-hundred slots were avail-

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