



DAVID L. KEVELIGHAN of 25714 Castlereigh is a practicing attorney. He taught at North Farmington High seven years. He is a member and past secretary of Farmington Area Jaycees, lived in Farmington for more than two years, received his B.A. from Wayne State, master's from U. of Mich. and law degree from WSU.



ALBERT DARIAN of 24605 Glen Orchard Dr. is engineer for Ford Motor Co., a graduate of U. of Mich., licensed engineer and has lived in the township since 1957. His primary interest is in school construction.

## Spiral Has Caught Up

By EMORY DANIELS  
(Jr. in a Series)

The need for additional funds, which prompted the Farmington School District's request for \$4.5 mills, was caused by a loss of revenue as well as additional expenses. The district is asking for 4.5 new operating mills (\$4.50 per \$1,000 equalized valuation) for four years to raise an additional \$1.4 million needed to balance the budget in 1971-72.

THE FINANCIAL condition of the district, leading to this request began when teachers gained the right to bargain collectively and started receiving pay hikes of 8 to 10 per cent a year above the annual increments, which themselves average \$500 to \$600 each year.

But this is an expense which faces all public agencies as well as private industry and is an expense which probably would not have forced the need for the 4.5 mills this year were it not for other factors.

An important factor is when the State Supreme Court ruled

the extra rooms. During this past school year, the district spent \$157,000 for heating alone and has budgeted \$185,000 for 1971-72.

"The operation of a large and growing school district is caught in two gigantic traps," says Supt. Roderick J. Smith.

"One is the ever-increasing spiral of increased costs for the same items, and the second is the proportional decline in state aid under the present formula enacted by the Legislature.

"A few years ago, state aid provided about 60 per cent of our revenue and currently it is about 40 per cent."

THE INCREASING load carried by local taxpayers could increase if the millage rate forces program reductions. The state is now in its second year of giving state-wide tests to assess local performances.

State Sen. Carl Pursell (R, Plymouth) reports the state is now ready to consider distributing state funds on the basis of the quality of programs offered by local

## background

last year that public school districts must supply free textbooks and supplies to students.

THIS RULING cost Farmington schools between \$240,000 and \$250,000 since September 1970. Although the expense may vary in subsequent years, furnishing books and supplies will be a continuing added expense.

In addition to the court's ruling, the state has reduced aid payments to local districts because of a loss of revenues Michigan has experienced because of the recession and General Motors strike.

Farmington schools thus far have lost \$105,000 in state aid, says Business Manager William Prisk, and may lose more. In addition to state aid losses, the district is receiving less from state in reimbursements for transportation, driver education and special education.

Although these are the two major expenses leading to the need for \$1.4 million more in 1971-72, Prisk explains, there are other extra costs caused by the fact the district is still growing and adding about 500 students per year.

DURING THIS past year, the district opened Harrison High School and Wood Creek Elementary and had to undergo the extra costs of hiring teachers, custodians and maintaining these buildings.

During the next school year, the classroom additions will be completed and in operation for Langacre, Shawanaw and Larkshire elementary buildings.

The classroom additions will result in an increase in maintenance costs as well as the need for more teachers for

FARMINGTON Five candidates will be on Monday's ballot for one four-year district on the Farmington Board of Education.

One of the following will be elected: Mrs. Elizabeth Brennan of 23995 Drake; Albert Darian of 24605 Glen Orchard Dr.; David Lawrence Kevelighan of 25714 Castlereigh; Dr. Mervyn B. Ross of 31152 Carriage Hill Ct.; and Charles J. Westen of 29909 Briarton.

Four of the candidates have returned to this newspaper answers to a questionnaire soliciting their views on public education issues. Mrs. Brennan was the only candidate who did not return the questionnaire but did give us her views.

MRS. BRENNAN had previously explained her candidacy as a measure of the public's attitude toward the Family Life Education (FLE) program, which she opposes.

She feels public schools are in danger of being used as agencies of social change and "radical" approaches to sex education, minority understanding or drug abuse are destructive of relationships among children and their families.

Mrs. Brennan does not feel such a program would sacrifice programs such as remedial reading and athletics while offering programs which will be "harmful rather than helpful" to the child.

She says she will vote against the millage requested by the district because past spending practices of the board and student vandalism have contributed to the district's financial condition.

Eliminating waste and unnecessary adventures into untried programs can avoid the need for more money, she adds.

DARIAN is running because he's interested in school construction and believes there is an uneven distribution of facilities within the system with students in the southern sections being shorted.

If millage is defeated, he would first trim from vocational education, drama, art, typing, shorthand, co-op program and music and then trim home economics, foreign language and physical education.

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The child is entitled to sex education, Darian adds, which may supplement what his parents but will insure equal and proper sex education of all children.

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He also supports the minority understanding program but doesn't want to "expend money at the present time" when the district is financially pressed.

Darian supports citizen advisory councils as an important contact between the board and community and as workshops for program studies with the community advising the board on pertinent, operational issues.

KEVELIGHAN SAYS if the millage is defeated he would "find it extremely difficult to trim from any of the areas but if it became necessary to do so, then the art, physical education, music and drama programs would be reduced."

"None of these areas would be eliminated entirely, and each would be reduced proportionately. These areas certainly enrich a child's education, but the other areas such as vocational education, home economics, typing and shorthand, student co-op programs and foreign languages are needed to prepare a child to earn a living, enter the field of higher education, or maintain a home."

On parental responsibility of schools, he says the district cannot rightfully assume the role of parents in enforcing dress and grooming rules.

"They should become involved only when there is a problem of safety, health or interruption of the educational process."

Kevelighan denies the schools will be taking over the parental role in sex education. "Parents should be encouraged to work closely with the schools and supplement the program as much as possible."

Citizen councils are valuable, he says, because they enable persons to participate directly in the educational process and allows the board to measure how the community feels about certain areas.

He supports hiring of minorities if they are the most qualified and favors a voluntary exchange of teachers. "It should not be the function of the school district to find housing for any groups," he adds, and state law will insure there is no discrimination against minority teachers obtaining housing.

ROSS SAYS if millage fails he would not make arbitrary cuts but would seek counsel from other trustees, administrative personnel, teachers and students.

"My approach would be to trim from each rather than eliminate any subject in total. By this method we could maintain a full range of

vote for every present member of the board, they are doing a commendable job. Membership on a school board is probably the toughest elective job in government. Long hours, tough issues, money problems are the rule; at the same time they receive no salary, little community recognition, and lots of citizen antagonism.

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content which is vital for total development of the child towards understanding himself and taking a useful place in society."

On dress codes, Ross says: "I don't feel the school has the right to 'assume' any parental role. Communication and cooperation between parent, school and student is vital in developing guidelines for dress and grooming."

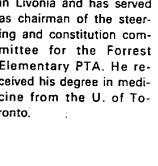
He favors sex education because "the ultimate goal of both parent and school must be the development of the child who is mature and comfortable within himself and society." He supports citizen advisory councils because they encourage community and parent interest and participation.

On minority understanding program, Ross says: "I support the constitutionality of hiring competent teachers and administrators regardless of race, color, creed or sex. This support is wholesome for our community and the child's development and maturity as a total human being."

On finding housing for minority teachers hired, Ross says: "Prospective teachers who wish to live in our community are guaranteed this right by law. As members of the board of education, a state agency, we are all bound to uphold and abide by the law."

WESTEN Also feels if millage fails and areas need

DR. MERVYN B. ROSS, M.C. of 31152 Carriage Hill Ct. has lived in Farmington for two years. He practices internal medicine in Livonia and has served as chairman of the steering and constitution committee for the Forrest Elementary PTA. He received his degree in medicine from the U. of Toronto.



## 3 Good Choices In Clarenceville

Clarenceville School District voters face two issues when they go to the polls Monday, election of two trustees to the Board of Education and approving the shift of funds, already approved in a 1965 bond issue, from one use to another.

The fund transfer doesn't involve any additional millage but merely approval of a request to shift cash earmarked for new construction, equipment, site development and playgrounds to remodeling projects. Inasmuch as the voters approved the issue in 1965 for one purpose, the matter must go back to the voters for any changes in the original request.

School officials emphasize that voters are not being asked for additional funds but merely a change in use.

It involves remodeling at Edgewood, Grandview, the junior and senior high buildings and deserves approval. The administration and school board feel it is necessary, that it will not cost voters anything additional and actually will get full use of the 1956 bond issue.

THEN THERE IS the question of filling two vacancies from six candidates including the two incumbents.

There isn't any question about the abilities of incumbents Dr. Sam Prisk and Thomas C. Wilson. Each has served for long periods of time and each has made valuable contributions to the school community.

The Observer highly recommends both for reelection but also points to Mrs. Marilyn Rowens as an excellent candidate.

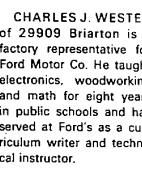
There are many in the school district who believe a woman member is needed to give the board better balance. Mrs. Rowens waged an energetic campaign and deserves consideration.

Each of the trio would make his or her influence felt on the board. Dr. Prisk and Wilson have the experience and Mrs. Rowens appears to have the know how and energy to make a fine addition to the board.

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MRS. ELIZABETH Brennan of 23995 Drake, is secretary-treasurer of Our Lady of Sorrows School Board and has been an officer in the PTA Guild at Sorrows. A life-time resident of Farmington, she has been active in the League of Catholic Women, is president of Citizens United for Farmington Youth and is participating in the recall drive.



CHARLES J. WESTEN of 29909 Briarton is a factory representative for Ford Motor Co. He taught electronics, woodworking and math for eight years in public schools and has served at Ford's as a curriculum writer and technical instructor.

## Ross Is Our Choice

Our choice as preferred candidate for the Farmington Board of Education is Dr. Mervyn Ross, a medical doctor who is also an interested parent personally committed to education.

His commitment is first noticeable by the number of board of education meetings he has attended as a spectator during the two years he has lived in Farmington. And it is strengthened by the fact he has four children in Farmington public schools who will be affected by the degree of personal commitment each school trustee has.

ROSS IS realistic enough about the district's financial condition to know students will be affected if the millage fails.

He supports an approach of trimming some from all areas and not eliminate entire educational programs. "By this method," he says, "we could maintain a full range of content which is vital for total development of the child towards understanding himself and taking a useful place in society."

Ross, like three of the other candidates, supports implementation of the three curriculum plans recommended by the Family Life Education (FLE) citizens advisory committee.

"I think an honest cross-section of the community was involved in drawing up the reports and that the board and those who worked on their implementation spent long, honest hours developing them. I think we ought to support the people we have elected in the past."

DR. ROSS HAS been honest enough to take a firm stand in favor of the millage asked by the district

## editorial

in spite of the fact it would be easier and possibly "politically wise" to remain uncommitted. But "uncommitted" is not.

Our reason for picking Dr. Ross as best qualified for the one four-year seat on the Farmington Board of Education is best summed up by the candidate's own words:

"If there is anything we can do for and with our children together, anything that we see eye-to-eye on, anything that will relieve rather than widen the generation gap, it must be what we can do to maintain enrichment and positive attitudes towards our children's education."

Farmington Enterprise & Observer

## Opposes Millage

EDITOR: Joe Nicita and his committee fostering the minority understanding program believe it is the obligation of the school system to contrive experiences to have contact with people of minority groups on a regular basis.

Also the administrative personnel are "charged with the responsibility of actively pursuing a policy of hiring persons of racial, ethnic or other minorities."

This is only a small part of this program. Having read the recommendations, it seems a considerable amount of time will be spent teaching our children about the minority groups, especially the blacks. We already have social studies to learn about other peoples, why such a large scale study program for minorities?

When will our children learn the rudimentary aspects of education, such as reading, writing, math and the other basic subjects our youngsters are sent to school to learn? Something has to be cut down on or even out because the children have all they can reasonably cope with now. The school systems are

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