



Forest principal: Kayleen Hill takes over for Walt Jablonski at Forest Elementary School.



New at Wooddale: Lasenia Jones replaces Dave Coffin at Wooddale Elementary in the Farmington district.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIER

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as a teacher in the Detroit Public School System for 21 years.

At Wooddale, the Winston-Salem, N.C. native served as the career education liaison for the school and has been on the Evaluation Committee for the Delta Task Force and on the Assessment Committee.

Hill has been a principal at Mt. (Mich.) AuSable Elementary School and, most recently, at Pinehurst Elementary in Mt. Morris, Mich. She was also Michigan Educational Assessment Program coordinator, special education director and curriculum contact person for the Mt. Morris district.

Hill was also president of the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association.

Jones and Hill bring with enthusiasm and ideas. Both say they want to become involved in community.

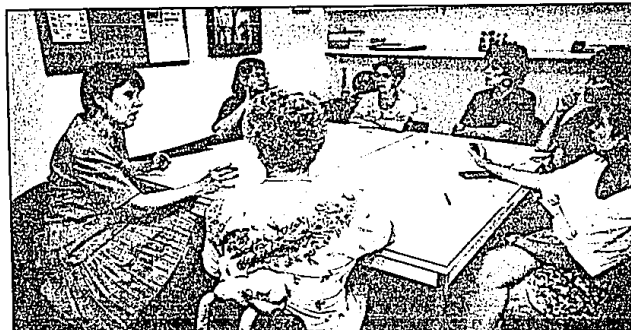
Their administrative styles will take into account the evolving nature of education.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Hill said she believes in site-based management, and in listening to staff and parents. Added Hill, "I think, like anything else, we're aware as principals we need to be leaders and not managers. I think we need to be facilitators and facilitate change. . . . Education is changing, changing, changing all the time."

Jones said she plans to promote ways to teach children on an individual basis rather than being locked into a single strategy for an entire classroom. She doesn't see teaching the basic skills being compromised.

"That (basic knowledge) is a prerequisite for everything else," Jones said. "However, basic knowledge on its own doesn't serve one well unless they know how to apply it."



Rules session: Forest principal Kayleen Hill (left) discusses rules with lunch monitors (clockwise from left) Leah Calagias, Vera Masi, Kathy Hight, Joyce Bambenek, Marilyn Waldron and Anna Varsanyi.

Construction crews cap summer of school projects

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

It's been no summer vacation for construction workers at several Farmington school sites.

A bevy of renovation and improvement projects are wrapping up as the new school year begins.

They're expected to be finished in time for classes Tuesday, according to Building and Student Services director Don Cowan.

"They all look really good," Cowan said. "I couldn't be more pleased than with the work our staff and (contractor) Bill McCarthy has done. We have a lot of work going on."

Alameda Early Childhood Center and Flanders and Lakshmi elementary were the recipients of major renovation work, which has included new ceilings and new carpeting.

Students and staff at Power Middle School will have an additional six classrooms as well as more space in the media center and cafeteria. An elevator was also installed.

The renovations and repairs have been part of an ongoing district project to deal with increased enrollment at some schools and an average building age of 32 years.

"These are really the last of the Mohicans," Cowan said. "This should pretty much clear us up in

terms of the intensive renovation. We pretty much got the elementary schools up to date now other than small things such as windows here or there."

Don Cowan
schools spokesman

Paving projects include O.E. Dunkel Middle School, which involves extending the turnaround horseshoe driveway to alleviate the back up on 12 Mile as a result of parents picking up their children.

One of the biggest paving jobs is the new parking lot and driveway at Wooddale Elementary, which was a source of controversy to nearby residents. The new two-lane driveway will empty out onto Oak Forest.

Gravel was put down on Thursday at Wooddale and paving started on Friday. Cowan expects the work to be completed by Monday or Tuesday at the latest in time for classes.

"We're watching that very closely," Cowan said Friday. "I've alerted Lasenia Jones, the new principal, if need be, we would have a telephone (alert) to let parents know school would be delayed one day or something."

"Unless we have some real bad weather during the weekend, we're in good shape."

Also, five portable classrooms have been installed at two district high schools to handle increased enrollment. Three have been placed at Farmington High and two at North Farmington.

Cowan said the district will hold the line on future capital improvement projects, mainly due to the cutback in state funding.

"We'll wait and see what the state does with the money," he said. "There's a lot of question marks out there."

City boards have vacancies

Several vacancies exist on Farmington's boards and commissions.

City officials are accepting applications for a three open seats on the City Beautification Committee, one seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals and one on the Commission on Aging.

Those interested can pick up applications at Farmington City Hall. Members on all three boards are appointed by council.

Qualifications include being a resident for at least three years and a registered elector of the city.

The Beautification Committee

FARMINGTON

tee is made up of 16 members plus an ex-officio member from Department of Public Service. Members serve a two-year term and the committee meets the second Wednesday of the month.

The Beautification Committee advises council on recommendations for beautification of the city; promotes and acknowledges such efforts.

The Board of Zoning Appeals is made up of five members and the mayor. Each member has a

three-year term and the board meets as needed on the first Wednesday of the month.

The Board of Zoning Appeals hears variance requests and authorizes them according to the zoning code.

The Farmington Area Commission on Aging has 11 members (eight from Farmington Hills, three from Farmington) and meets the third Tuesday of the month. Members serve a three-year term.

The commission promotes community awareness and the rights of older adults to live independently and with dignity.

For information, call Farmington City Hall at 474-5500.

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