

# FHS assistant principal lands top job in Troy

BY TIM SMITH  
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For the past four years, Farmington High School Assistant Principal Catherine Cost has been "taking notes" about how to be principal.

As of July 1, she will start putting that knowledge to the test, when she takes over as principal at Troy Athens High School. Cost was selected for the job over two principals of Class A high schools, both men.

"What a tribute that is," said Farmington schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield about Cost topping the finalist field. "She's a wonderful student advocate. She loves all aspects of high school life. They got a winner and it's a school that really needs it. She'll bring spirit and enthusiasm."

"It's for the opportunity," said Cost about why she opted to leave Farmington High after an eight-year career, the first four as a mathematics teacher. "Plus, because I live in Royal Oak, (Athens) is closer to home. But the hardest part is leaving the

community of Farmington, the families and the school system have been tremendous."

Her resignation from FHS was officially accepted by the school board Tuesday night, as were other resignations and retirements, including four other building administrators.

Cost, who earned her bachelor of arts degree in mathematics from the University of Michigan, said she takes from FHS some of the leadership qualities she saw in both from current Principal John Barrett and his predecessor, James Myers.

"I watched John and Jim Myers as principal," said Cost, adding that her style will be similar to theirs at the onset. "Their styles were very effective, very student-centered."

There will be one major difference at Athens, however - no block scheduling. As of the 2000-01 school year, all three high schools in the Farmington district will have the longer class blocks. The first to go to that model was FHS, during Cost's first year as an assistant principal.

"My experience is Farmington is cutting edge," Cost said. "But I was reading an article that said that over 50 percent of (American high schools) either have gone to or are looking at block scheduling."

Cost expects the block will eventually become an issue at Athens. When it does, she'll be prepared.

The search for Cost's successor is expected to be handled from both inside and outside the district.

## Retirement list

Meanwhile, 26 employees' retirements were officially approved Tuesday by the school board. Stepping down are four other building administrators: Warner Middle School Principal Darlene Russell; William Grace Elementary School Principal Kaylene Hill; Laura Miner, principal at Power Middle School; and Kathleen McAdaragh-Hain, assistant principal, Dunckel Middle School.

Also on the retirement list were: Richard Cardecia, music teacher, Power Middle School;

Phillip Cunningham, science teacher, Dunckel Middle School; Richard Curp, teacher, Farmington High School; Catharine DeLuca, instrumental music teacher, Hillside Elementary School; Kenneth Duma, chemistry/biology teacher, Harrison High School; Paul Hamway, counselor, Farmington High School; Elaine Harrison, special education teacher, Beechview Elementary School; Robert Hickcox, counselor, Harrison High School; Mark Holdridge, physical education teacher, Harrison High School; Georgene Kinsman, speech therapist, Kenbrook Elementary School; Miriam Leventhal, social worker, Beechview

Elementary/Highmeadow Common Campus;

Carol Malzone, teacher, Kenbrook Elementary School; Patricia Merritt, teacher, Power Middle School; Marge Powell, English teacher, North Farmington High School; Charmaine Rogusa, Spanish teacher, Harrison High School; Julie Riegel, media specialist, Highmeadow Common Campus; John Ritz, math teacher, North Farmington High School; Dan Schneider, physical therapist, William Grace Elementary School; Rochelle Sokol, teacher, Eagle Elementary School; Dorothy Sundeck, teacher, Hillside Ele-

mentary School; Sybil Winters, learning center teacher, William Grace Elementary School; Judith Zielke, teacher, Gill Elementary School.

There were several other personnel changes approved by the board: Hired to succeed McAdaragh-Hain as Dunckel assistant principal was Beechview teacher Sharon Cooper.

The board also accepted the resignations of Harrison High School counselor James Wood, Farmington High School math teacher Timothy Schafer and Kenbrook Elementary School Spanish teacher Jennifer Seidel.

## 'Spring Fling' entertains families

The William Grace Elementary School PTA along with Larry LaRue, vocal music teacher at William Grace Elementary, David Drake, director of the East Jazz Band, and Mark Phillips, director of the Harrison High School Jazz Band, presented the first "Spring Fling," a celebration of music, Thursday, May 25, on the William Grace grounds.

William Grace families, friends, local neighbors, seniors and area community members including the Farmington/Farmington Hills state representative Andrew Raczowski, brought blankets and lawn chairs and relaxed while listening to the music and eating an ice cream, cotton candy or popcorn.

The event began with the William Grace Song:

## Retiring principal Katy Hill was presented with an award.

Costs directed by their vocal music teacher, Larry LaRue. Then the East Jazz Band, led by director David Drake, entertained the crowd.

Raczowski, presented retiring principal Katy Hill with an award.

The evening was capped off with a performance from the Harrison High School Jazz Band conducted by Mark Phillips.

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