

LETTERS

Outstanding

I met Pam Charleston-Lyons last October when my wife Adelle and I first met with the other parents of students in the A.F.A.C. Back-to-Back French-American exchange student program at Dunkle Middle School. We were organizing to prepare for hosting 13 French students in April and for our students' trip to France in May. From that experience, I learned that Pam Charleston-Lyons would be an outstanding choice for the position of School Board trustee. From the beginning, Pam's affable, enthusiastic manner animated our meetings and activities. Her contributions to our discussions were always very perceptive and well reasoned. The personal qualities Pam has exhibited along with her education and work experience make her well qualified to represent us on the school board, but there is one more reason I will vote for her. I trust her.

William N. Martz
Farmington Hills

Works hard

As PTA president at Wood Creek Elementary, and active school volunteer for many years, I would like to extend my sincere support of Pam Charleston-Lyons, a Wood Creek parent, for Farmington School Board. Pam has worked very hard on several PTA programs. She has been an active parent volunteer and has always been a positive and supportive PTA participant. She keeps an objective perspective on things which I have personally found helpful when dealing with emotional issues, like the redistricting of some Wood Creek families. I believe that Pam Charleston-Lyons' education background would be a source of great benefit for our school board - after all it is education they deal with. I encourage voters to come to the polls on June 11, to approve the millage and to support Pam Charleston-Lyons.

Beth Salk, PTA President
Farmington Hills

High standards

We have had the pleasure of knowing John Goshorn for several years and can absolutely and unequivocally recommend him for a position on the Farmington School board. It is with great respect and gratitude that we make this recommendation. We respect John for his unflinching commitment to the youth of our community

and to the Farmington school system. We respect him for his integrity, his dedication to excellence in our schools on all levels - academically and socially. John has been a wonderful mentor to many young people. He has been a visible presence and a positive role model.

He is a man of high standards and we are very grateful that he has decided to commit his time, his energy, his many talents, and especially his high standards to maintaining and improving our schools. We strongly encourage you to vote for John Goshorn.

Joe and Gina Karl
Farmington Hills

Impressed by 4

I am asking your readers to think and look at the facts before voting on June 11.

For two weeks a neighbor has been trying to convince me to vote for a candidate she was supporting. She couldn't tell me a whole lot about the candidate, so I decided to watch the Farmington PTA Forum and make my own decision. I am so glad I did and I think everyone who plans to vote should too.

After watching this debate, I do not support the candidacy of Pam Christian or Terrence Elsey. There are four qualified candidates to choose from: John Goshorn, Pam Charleston-Lyons, Phil Neuman and Frank Reid, and I hope you readers will vote for two of them. They know the issues and they know how to present them in a professional way.

Jennifer Shoemaker
Farmington Hills

Role model

I am writing to endorse Ms. Pam Christian for Farmington School Board Trustee. I have worked with Ms. Christian as a Girl Scout Leader in Neighborhood 40 for over two years. She has impressed me with her dedication, enthusiasm, responsibility, integrity, and trustworthiness. She is a role model not just for the girls in the two troops she leads for her daughters, but for all scouts in the Farmington and Farmington Hills area. One thing I appreciate most about Pam Christian is her sincere

interest in doing the right thing to benefit the most people. She presents her ideas thoughtfully and considerately, listens to all views, and seeks compromise. I enthusiastically endorse Ms. Pam Christian for Farmington School Board Trustee and urge all your readers to vote for her on June 11.

Marsha Raimi Brand
West Bloomfield

Support millage

I urge everyone in the Farmington Public School District to support this millage renewal with a yes vote on election day. Although the state law requires this ballot language to be worded as an "increase" because legally when it expires it is, in fact, this is not a new tax. It is a renewal of existing millage to operate the district.

There are many reasons to support this renewal. These are the dollars that allow our district to continue providing quality education and programs to our children. A quality school district is a primary factor in any community's economic viability and maintaining residential property values.

Our School Board and administration have truly brought the quality of our facilities to the level necessary to provide the premier school district we all want in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

I will continue to support this district with my tax dollars because they deserve my support and it is my responsibility to support quality education in my community. I urge you to vote on June 11 and to support this renewal with your yes vote.

Jon Grant
City Council Member
City of Farmington Hills

A parent's view

As the parent of two Forest Elementary students, as well as someone who is very active at the school and in school activities, I feel especially qualified to share my feelings on the upcoming school board election.

Having worked with Pam Christian over the past year, I have "seen her in action." Her people skills are exemplary, demonstrating the ability to work easily with others toward

our common goals and always take on what is needed.

Furthermore, Pam Christian brings a wealth of involvement and experience in numerous community areas, including school PTA, District Diversity Committee, and the District Committee to Evaluate Graduation Requirements. As a stay-at-home mother, Pam is able to devote the energy and focus needed for our children.

It is rare that I can offer my endorsement without reservation, but Pam Christian absolutely deserves our vote on June 11. And when you go to the polls, please remember to vote yes on the Farmington Public School Millage Renewal. If this millage is not passed, the effects would be devastating.

Nancy Gross
Farmington Hills

Groundless

As a 22-year resident of Farmington Hills, with two daughters who went from preschool through high school graduation here, I have witnessed many changes. I have invested much of my time in the district and in the community.

I was appalled at your apparently groundless endorsement of Phil Neuman for school board. I say groundless because being an attorney and "bucking the system" hardly qualify him. In reality, his actions have been self-serving and shortsighted, with no perspective of the big picture or the larger district beyond Forest Elementary.

You are easily impressed by the fact that he "speaks out." Believe me, we do have a large number of parents who make their personal issues known to some, like Phil, are naive and have their own agenda. Your statement that "too many parents aren't" willing to speak out, is grossly in error.

Your endorsement of him is irresponsible and unfounded.

If you value continued quality education in our district, vote on June 11 for the candidates who have the best interests of all of our children at heart - vote for Pam Christian and Frank Reid.

Kathryn Williams
Farmington Hills

True dedication

I was pleased to learn that Phil Neuman is a candidate for the Farmington School Board. I am the president of Forgotten Harvest, a non-profit organization that rescues food that would otherwise go to waste, and Phil has been an active member of our board for the past 10 years. He has shown a true dedication to the cause of fighting hunger, and I know that his good common sense will be very valuable to the school children of Farmington Public Schools.

As a resident of Farmington Hills and an educator for 30 years, I am confident that Phil will make an excellent school board member. That's why I plan to vote for Phil Neuman in the upcoming election.

Clarine Boles
Farmington Hills

For Goshorn

We have a real opportunity to bring a fresh voice to the (Farmington School) board, John Goshorn, not the same worn out rhetoric we have heard for years.

I had the pleasure of meeting John Goshorn at the Memorial Day Parade and was impressed by his straight forward approach to dealing with the challenges of educating our children here in Farmington. We need to break the mold of this "good ol' boy" network that has entrenched itself in the Farmington School Board and bring in some new voices and fresh ideas.

As John Goshorn has said, we have only one opportunity to educate our children, let's do it right! Let's be proud of not only our schools, but our school board as well.

Remember to vote, Monday, June 11, not Tuesday, for John Goshorn for School Board.

Bill Smith
Farmington Hills

Determined

I am writing this letter to voice my support of Pam Charleston-Lyons who is running for a seat on the Farmington Public School Board. I have known Dr. Charleston-Lyons for a long time.

As a student, she was always conscientious and thorough in her studies. As an educator, she has always been a gleaming example of an individual who believes in quality education for all students.

As a mother with two children attending schools in the Farmington School District, she has a vested interest in making the district an exemplary place to learn for all children. She also has the dual experience of being a taxpayer and a school employee. This allows her to understand the budgetary implications involved with planning and implementing a quality and equitable system of education for all grade levels.

I encourage all concerned parents and families to cast their vote for Pam Charleston-Lyons on Monday, June 11.

Janet Kern
Farmington Hills

Balanced

I enthusiastically support Pam Charleston-Lyons for the Farmington Board of Education. Not only does she have endless energy on top of a doctorate in education from the University of Michigan, she most importantly has the best interests of children at heart.

As the recent PTA Council forum with all six candidates demonstrated, Pam Charleston-Lyons is the candidate that best embodies all the requisite skills for the job. She has extensive experience in the education field as a teacher and high school counselor, as well as an active life as a parent volunteer for her children's schools. She has the ability to articulate her position on complex issues, and will work well with her colleagues.

I feel I can trust Pam to represent me and my family on the board, making judgments and decisions that will benefit our children and support strong public schools.

Marianne O'Connor-Scarlet, Farmington Hills

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