

# Board member seeks opponent

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Clarenceville School Board member Gary Garrison would like to see a little more competition in his re-election bid.

Garrison, who has served since 1994, said he hadn't planned to run this time around, but decided he had to sign up for the chance at another four years.

"It was a last-minute decision," he said Friday. "Nobody was coming up, and it was too important to walk away from."

That's why he ran the first time around, he added. "I would have hoped in eight years, somebody would have gotten interested."

His term and that of trustee John Shaw expire this year. Shaw has elected not to run, Garrison said. One other potential candidate may file petitions, but the Observer was unable to confirm that information before press time.

The District encompasses a four-and-a-half-mile area in portions of Farmington Hills, Livonia and Redford. It serves approximately 1,900 students in grades K-12, with an annual budget of \$16.4 million.

The School Board generally meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 107 at Clarenceville Middle School. Members of the public are encouraged to attend, and therein lies what Garrison sees as the tough part of the job, the part that requires him to have a thick skin.

"I know every single time I cast a vote, I'm going to offend somebody," he said. "That hasn't deterred him and shouldn't deter anyone else, Garrison added. "I highly encourage anyone to run."

"People who have kids, I don't know how they can look at them and say it's not important to be involved."

Petitions are due Monday, April 8. For information, call (248) 473-8900.



Honored teacher: Warner Middle School teacher Mary Leyman conducts a mock job interview with student Marisa Karcz.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL DAERLEK

of Farmington. They have a son, Andy, 19 and a daughter, Maggie, 17.

"She's so nice," said Amalia Tolos, an eighth grader. "She's always helping people. She doesn't overwork us. She listens to our personal stories. She's almost like a best friend"

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In class: Warner Middle School teacher Mary Leyman talks to her class about the proper way to interview for a job.

## Teacher from page A1

on these skills," she said. Mary Beth Sikora, a counselor at East Middle School, coordinates the program with Leyman. Students learn to dress up for the occasion and can earn bonus points for their appearance.

"Last year we had a boy come in with a suit and tie and attached case," Leyman said. "Kids need guidelines."

Among those guidelines: Don't wear jeans and don't bring a friend or your mother with you.

How to act in the business world is everyday knowledge all students will need, Leyman said. She collects as much knowledge as she can that's up to date to make it relevant for kids.

Leyman has taught at Warner Middle School for nine years. The enrichment class is "delightful," but her real loves are writing, English and poetry.

"I use music and video clips," she said. "We need to tap into the way they learn. I use all those different strategies to deliver content. If you take what you love into the classroom, you motivate the students."

### Certified

Besides her recent award, Leyman went through a rigorous process to earn national board certification last November.

"That was the most valuable professional experience I have ever had," she said.

Only 17 teachers certified in the state last year; three in the Farmington school district. "If

you really want to hone your craft, this process forces you to take a hard look at what you teach, how you teach it and how it impacts student learning," she said. "Everything is measured against the national board standards."

Leyman was required to produce a videotape of 18 uninterrupted minutes which showed best practices. A variety of things went wrong during taping — fire drills, phone ringing, no audio and someone tripping over the cord.

"It took eight takes before I had a usable tape," she said. She taped every hour and also had to explain in her project what she would have done differently.

In addition to validating her own work, the certificate allows her to teach anywhere in the U.S. Held for 10 years, it is recognized nationally.

The fee is \$2,300 and the school district pays half. Certificate completion nets a negotiated pay increase of \$1,260 a year.

Leyman part of a team of five teachers who share 105 students a day. She teaches four English arts classes and one enrichment class.

She holds a masters in English education from Wayne State University. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan Dearborn with double majors in English and social studies.

She's married to Chuck, a salesman, and lives in the City

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