

Board president meets with PTA officials

**BY SUE BUICK
STAFF WRITER**

Farmington school board President Linda Enberg wanted some "face-to-face time" off camera with school board members and state and local PTA officials before the regular school board meeting June 3.

"Whatever happens in the world of politics, we value our relationship with the (PTA Council)," Enberg said. "You have tried to provide a conduit for a parent's voice in matters of education for the district. We are so grateful for that connection."

Leadership has stepped forward with greater involvement from the community and input, she said. "We want to reassure you that nothing will get in the way of that relationship."

Enberg's comments followed incidents at the May 19 PTA Community Council school board candidate forum in which candidate Karen Bolsen took issue with a change in procedure in asking questions, and Farmington school board

member Pam Christian accused the council of allowing candidate Cheryl Swaim to review questions ahead of time.

Immediate Past President Kim Heath and Michael Bridges, PTA legislative chair, as well as Swaim denied those charges.

"I know there has been some misunderstanding, but I have been a PTA member for nine years and I know we view this experience in a positive manner," said Heath June 3. "The PTA is about building bridges."

Bolsen raised issues about the procedure used for questions. The PTA also used questions generated from either telephone calls or previous discussions before going to questions from the audience.

Bolsen preferred that the council keep to the procedure described in the invitation letter, which provided four questions and said questions would come from the audience. The letter didn't mention that additional questions might come from a different venue.

While the state PTA has

some suggestions on how to hold a candidate forum, Sue Bellows, outgoing state PTA president, said the state PTA leaves it up to the local units and councils to determine how, what questions are asked and in what order questions are asked.

The state PTA took no issue with the Farmington PTA Council using questions it received before the start of the candidate forum and before it took questions from the audience.

"There's no hard and fast rule," Bellows said.

"The PTA can't endorse, she added.

Bolsen said Wednesday she would have appreciated being notified of the procedure change ahead of time and "two people in the audience told her afterward their questions weren't asked."

If elected, Bolsen said, she will answer questions openly.

If there is an outlined procedure ahead of time and "it is a procedure for the public good, I will follow that procedure," she said.

PTA Council honors Maxfield with honorary membership

**BY SUE BUICK
STAFF WRITER**

Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield received an honorary lifetime membership from the state PTA during a surprise presentation at the June 3 school board meeting.

"Dr. Maxfield, this is a long time coming," said Angie Smith, newly named president of the Farmington Area PTA Council and a field service representative for the regional organization.

Smith was accompanied by state PTA representatives: Sue Bellows, immediate past president; Janet Roberts, Region D vice-president; service field service representatives, Keith Warnick and Libby Benton; and Barbara Flis, Health and Welfare Education consultant.

Maxfield, clearly touched by the honor, stressed the important part parents play in education.

"This is very important to me," Maxfield said. "The role parents play is the critical variable of children being success-

ful or not. What a wonderful night to receive this."

Maxfield attends all PTA Council meetings.

The evening also included a presentation by Kim Heath, immediate Past President, who recapped during the regular meeting the last few months of activities before ending her tenure. She's been a PTA member for nine years.

"One experience provided humor."

"The May 6 meeting will go down in infamy because the tornado sirens went off several times in Farmington," Heath said.

"We fluctuated between the large meeting room at Farmington Training Center and the women's restroom (designated as a shelter area)," Heath said.

In the end, the entire group moved to the rest room. "The show must go on," Heath said, drawing laughter from the crowd. "Dr. Maxfield and the other men in the crowd got to go where few men have ever gone before."

"Presentations in the bath-

room are a lot more animated," Heath said.

"If you moved your hands while you were speaking, the motion sensors would go off and you would get a free towel."

Heath ended her presentation with quote on "attitude from an unknown author:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude is more important than fact. It is more important than experience or skill. It will make or break a team. The remarkable thing is that everyday we have a choice about the attitude we take. We cannot change our past. We cannot change the inevitable. I'm convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react to it.

Remember, we are in charge of our own attitude."

Farmington School Board Member Cathy Webb, a representative to the PTA Council, commended Heath for "a fabulous job."

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