

# 10 Farmington School Board Candidates Give Views On Issues Concerning Residents

By EMORY DANIELS

**FARMINGTON**  
With 12 candidates running for the Farmington Board of Education, it can be taken for granted a divergence of opinion exists.

In this campaign there is a wide divergence with even the liberals disagreeing on some issues and conservatives and moderates likewise differing with their fellow philosophers.

**THE ONLY** single area of agreement at the five "Meet the Candidate" programs is that 10 are opposed to cross-district busing.

Joe T. Fowles and Paul Olivier Jr., have failed to appear at any of the candidate nights and have ignored questionnaires sent out by the Farmington Enterprise & Observer, and so their views on busing are unknown.

The two candidates who have come the closest to seeing eye-to-eye on issues have been Bruce E. Duke and David V. Gayner, both nine-year members of the John Birch Society and active in the abortive recall attempt in the midst of the sex education controversy.

The views of candidates expressed at candidate meetings follow below with candidates listed in alphabetical order.

**WILLIAM CORLISS** says it appears the board can make out this year without cutting into curriculum.

What is needed is implementation of the best possible management techniques to make sure the funds the district has are spent in the best possible way, he continued. "New methods of management should be investigated."

Corliss says he believes that teachers have rights to vote in school board elections and work for the candidates of their choice.

On the minority understanding program, he responded that the purpose of education is to prepare students to live in this world, there can be no question that the minority understanding program is not only advisable and desirable but it is imperative.

He said he had not studied in depth the question of consolidating elementary schools but, on the surface, would oppose such a step.

Asked about curbing vandalism in the schools, Corliss said the schools must become more deeply involved in the community and see versus because the problem of vandalism is similar to the deficits of millage proposals.

"You just don't destroy what is yours. A more positive attitude is needed in the community about learning."

On sex education, Corliss urged parents to go to the schools and examine the guidelines and level for themselves. He noted that on the junior high level only three per cent of all parents asked for their children to be removed from sex ed classes.

On the fifth junior high, Corliss said two junior highs are already overcrowded—Dunkel and East. Harrison High has ninth graders attending and ninth graders belong in junior high surroundings, he added.

"The Farmington area population will double before it stabilizes. I don't care about declining birth rates because when you have twice as many persons it is reasonable to assume you will have more children than now. The district's total enrollment has increased each year and, although elementary has declined, there are new

## local news

By MARIE LONG GR 4-3114

Frank and Ethel Aggar have retired from Real Estate One and are now making their home in Sarasota, Fla.

Mrs. Mildred Haapala of Real Estate One is enjoying a pleasant vacation in Florida and plans to visit the Aggars.

MRS. BETTY LOWE and Mrs. Ruth Crawford of Farmington recently spent a wonderful three weeks' vacation.

They particularly enjoyed taking the Delta Queen down

subdivisions under construction." Corliss concludes that it is a shame the community as affluent as the Farmington area persons place more emphasis on snowmobiles and cabin cruisers than on education.

**BRUCE E. DUKE** said three years ago he became involved in the fight against sex education and minority understanding and discovered other weaknesses in the system.

He said there is a lack of discipline and the schools must teach self-discipline. Duke said after three millage defeats, the board should get the message but still hasn't.

After an election shouldn't be held, he adds, because the second was unnecessary.

Duke questions the need for the fifth junior high especially since the board was thinking of closing Bond Elementary and Cloverdale. (Since the meeting in Power Junior High, the board has decided against closing Bond but will partially close Cloverdale Elementary.)

"The neighborhood school concept is very important and should be expanded. Duke says his priorities are a quality education program stressing the "3 R's" followed by a top sports program and teaching self-discipline to achieve these goals.

On finances, Duke said the administration should come up with two or three proposals for the board to consider. He personally would provide for quality education first, sports second, and trim from there. Duke said he voted against the last three millage requests and would vote against a fourth.

Duke said the teachers' union doesn't have the right to campaign in a trustees' election and work for a candidate because the union may not represent the teachers' views.

Duke adds he was taught understanding for minorities when he was in school and believes a formal minority understanding program is unnecessary.

To curb vandalism, he said, vigorous enforcement of the law is needed and the law caught should feel the full weight of the law. The district should publicize the amount of vandalism occurring so parents will know what's happening.

Families living near schools and students attending schools should cooperate with police by turning in the names of anyone they see vandalizing school property, he added.

Duke said sex education fails to accomplish the goal it should and often leads to increases in illegitimate births and promiscuity.

On the fifth junior high, Duke said enrollment is down in elementary grades and added that since Judge Steven Roth issued his decision, 95 per cent of his calls on real estate have been cut off in the Farmington area. Home sales in Farmington will be drastically down, he added, if Roth orders busing.

**ALBERT DARIAN** says he would like to make budget cuts in areas other than curriculum. He said he would like to see an elective course with students having to ask to take the class before being enrolled.

With 75 per cent of the budget going towards instruction, he added, any necessary cuts should be in the lunch programs and study halls.

Guion said he actively supported the last three millage requests but would be reluctant to support another at this time. He said he supports maintaining some type of property tax in order to maintain control of local schools but would like legislation to relieve the tax burden from the elderly.

He said he is opposed to consolidation of elementary schools. He added that business methods should be employed for the schools but this meant there was more to the schools than just the profit and loss columns of the schools.

On vandalism, Guion said the teachers should not be made involved in the problem. Some families had to be removed in the school system and community.

Guion said an unfortunate

Darian said he is strongly opposed to consolidation of elementary schools and the financial condition of the schools would degrade the system, he added.

On vandalism, Darian said students should be sought and an investigation held into the reasons why such acts are committed.

On sex education, Darian commented that if parents don't teach sexuality to their children then the classroom is a proper setting.

On the fifth junior high, Darian said construction costs keep going up and if the board is wrong for falling to come out strong enough in expressing opposition to cross-district busing.

Jones said he voted for the last millage proposal and urges another be placed on the ballot. If it was, Jones said he would work hard to show voters why the funds were needed.

Jones said he is opposed to consolidation of elementary schools and the fact it is even being considered is an indication of how much the district needs more funds.

On sex education, Jones said the students who need this type of education often don't get it because parents don't know where to start or because the student is apathetic.

**JACK MINGO** says he knows what is going on inside the schools more than any other candidate because he is a recent graduate of North Farmington High.

"We need students who are not just going through the motions of school. We also need teachers on the board. It is time we begin to run schools for the purpose of learning."

To solve budget problems, Mingo said he would start the school day and enlist minority volunteers to provide non-credit extracurricular activities after school such as sports and music.

Mingo said he supported the last three millage proposals but would not support a fourth. "The schools have come from a root and the adults have made a decision the kids will have to accept."

Mingo said there is a need for a minority understanding program. "Understanding means people need to be taught, he added and students should learn not to be bigoted against persons they don't like."

Mingo said he opposed consolidation of elementary schools and would like schools to be opened to the community, to persons other than students during the school day. "School is a place for persons to get enrichment regardless of age."

Vandalism is a way students have of getting revenge against the school, Mingo retorted. "People don't break through windows of a friend's house." If schools and education were improved, he added, there would be less vandalism.

Sex education is very necessary, Mingo states, because parents are failing to do the job. There are a lot of youth, because of ignorance, who are having problems with venereal disease, unwanted pregnancies, and problems of adjusting to sexuality once married, Mingo added.

**G. KENNETH POYE** says the district's main problem is financial and the board must find ways of solving problems by applying techniques used by business.

When making budget cuts, Poye said trustees should avoid being swayed by emotion but analyze the situation objectively and make unbiased decisions after analyzing all the facts.

Poye said he supported the first millage request but voted against the second because there was too much coercion from the board about eliminating certain programs.

He said he wouldn't support a fourth millage request at this time.

Half of the residents said "no" to the last millage request and another election shouldn't be held, Poye added. Instead, the board should convince the taxpayer he cannot have a district to be proud of without raising needed funds.

Poye said his first reaction is to oppose consolidating elementary schools and added that his business-proposal to running the system is not so ruthless to be limited to profit-loss questions only.

Poye said in deciding budget cuts, he cannot see why special attention should be given musicians, artists and dramatists without giving the same consideration to athletes.

**MERVYN ROSS** comments that as a trustee he sees new crises almost every week from federal, state and local levels.

The function of the board is to set policies and guidelines with the end in mind of the development, education and maturing of children, he stated.

"Many serious problems are being dealt with at the board level and will continue to be dealt with at that level regardless of which candidates are successful."

Ross said his primary concern for youth is that, upon graduation, they will feel comfortable entering their new life.

The budget is a constantly fluid amount of dollars carried over and if programs are developed there must be provisions for them in the budget, Ross continued.

"Cuts have to be made and are being made but I don't want to see any further cuts in curriculum and programs that advance our children."

Ross said he supported the last three millage requests vigorously and said all seven members of the board are unanimous that the money was needed and the district is spending funds prudently.

Because of the large turnout in the last election, Ross emphasized, the board must adhere to the will of the community and he would not support any other millage election at this time.

Ross said he supports all three Family Life curriculum proposals. "There is nothing more critical today in our society than the effect of or lack of these kinds of programs."

On unions endorsing candidates, Ross said it was his prerogative to make any decision on what any group in the community should do. "Community groups should do what they feel is best for education."

Ross said vandalism is a reaction to a stimulus. The board should examine what is wrong with the school system, get to the causes of why students react with vandalism, and then take steps to correct the problems.

Sex education is preparation for personal relationships by providing an opportunity to teach individuals an understanding and responsibility for others, knowledge of their physical and social growth, and understanding of individual needs, Ross said.

**GEORGE STRELZUK** said he ran eight years ago for the board and saw his platform adopted. He said he was runner-up in that election but was never appointed to any vacancies because he was a blue collar worker.

On sex education, he said if parents want to have the schools teach sex education it should be at their option.

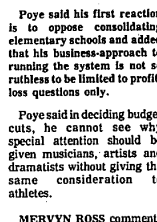
He said budget cuts could be elimination of the new junior high, lowering of the 10 per cent architectural fee which he described as exorbitant.

Strelzuk criticized hiring a construction manager at \$30,000 a year for the fifth junior high when the district is trying a building and grounds supervisor to do this work for the district.

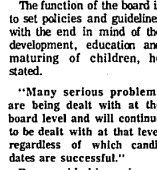
He said he voted against the last three millage requests because he felt pressured by the board through innuendos on what would be done to the children if the millage failed.

"I agree there is a need to improve the system but we can do it without losing present class sizes and curriculum. I wouldn't vote for another millage."

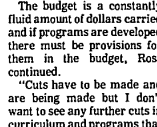
On sex ed, Strelzuk said he would like to see the school have a "no" policy at home. "We are putting kids into a shock condition. We are taking away from the child the age of innocence."



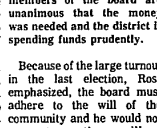
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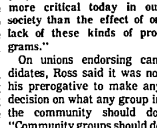
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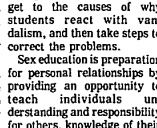
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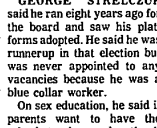
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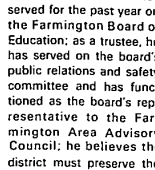
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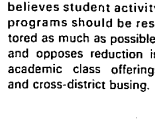
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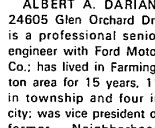
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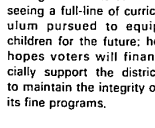
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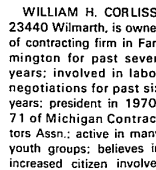
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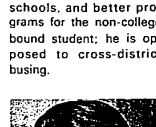
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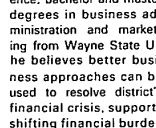
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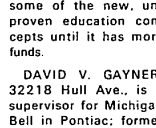
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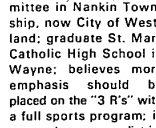
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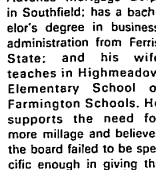
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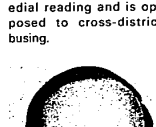
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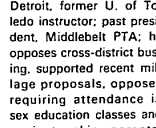
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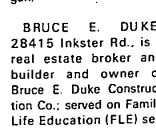
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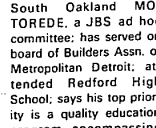
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**men in service**  
Basic Over Farmington High School

**FARMINGTON**  
Army Pvt. John C. Dost, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Dost, 21761 Cass, Farmington, recently completed eight weeks of basic training at the U.S. Army Training Center, Armor, Ft. Knox, Ky. Dost received his training with Company B of the 5th Brigade's 18th Battalion. He is a 1968 graduate of

**FARMINGTON**  
Marine Pfc. James P. Raby, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Raby of 29114 Greening, Farmington, has graduated from food service school at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.