

Board incumbent will run again for full term in June election



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By SUSAN AVERILL

FARMINGTON—The decision to run again for the board of education was a difficult one for Ann Rodewig. "I had to think long and hard whether I wanted to spend that much time, and I decided I did," she said.

Mrs. Rodewig is a trustee on the board of education. She has served in that position for a year, fulfilling the unexpired term of a board member who had resigned.



ANN RODEWIG

SHE HAD followed the school board for years and was for two years a member of an advisory council which has since been disbanded.

It was a mutual decision between the council and the board to disband, and she said she agreed with the decision. From there, she went on to run for the board.

"I just always had a lot of interest," she said. And interest, she believes, is one of the qualifications necessary to be a board member.

Although she sees the board as mainly a policy-maker, she said it also must be involved in more narrowly-focused areas like finance.

But that doesn't mean board members should become involved in small incidents and individual complaints. In such cases, they should function as a referral service, directing the complaints to the proper people.

"When people come to me with a problem, I call the board president or an administration member and tell them the problem, asking them to call the person," she said.

"I just don't think our involvement in little things is right. If someone calls and says there is a broken window in a school, I might call the maintenance department or the building principal to find out if they know about it." Further action would be theirs, she said.

SHE SAID SHE hasn't been deluged with phone calls this year from concerned or irate parents.

"I got one from a lady who had heard a rumor about the austerity budget and several earlier in the year about the lunch program."

Other than that, her sounding board is mostly those who voice their opinions and reactions during casual conversation.

Mrs. Rodewig said the board spent the major portion of its meetings this year on finances, which she sees as necessary, though not desirable.

"Unfortunately, a board must be involved in finance. I think we were going in the right direction and have worked well this year with such very difficult problems."

As a fairly new board member, she thinks there is much yet for her to learn. Many of these subjects she would like to see in curriculum reports.

"For example: for a couple of years, there has been an item in the budget for \$500 for the 'academically able.' I would like to see a little more emphasis in this direction."

The money is used districtwide.

Because the decision to close Farmington Junior High has not been made yet by the board, Mrs. Rodewig takes issue with reports which make it sound like an accomplished fact.

HOWEVER, the closing has been included in the figuring of the 1975-76 school budget and all that remains is the board's vote.

During the millage election discussions, Mrs. Rodewig said she supported across-the-board cuts in all programs rather than the extinction of a few.

"Instead of cutting out a program entirely, they prefer to cut a little here and there. If, for example, you give up elementary art consultants, you lose staff it has taken years to develop."

"Your chances of rehiring the staff again when the money is available is very low...it would be difficult. I can see the reason for that philosophy, and I agree with it," she said.

It was good, she said, to be able to adopt new books at the last board meeting.



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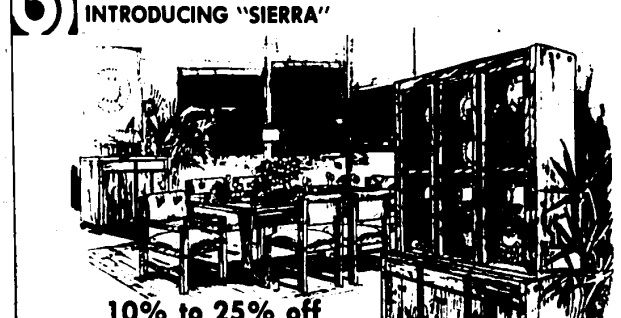
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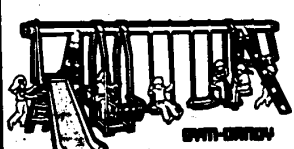


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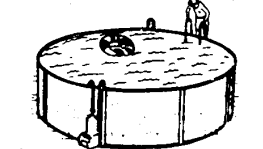
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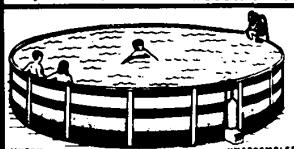
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