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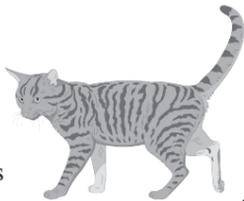
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FRUITPORT SCHOOL BOARD

School election to be May 5

by Mary Weimer

In addition to the bond proposal on the ballot in the May 5 school election, there are six candidates running for two four-year terms. Incumbents Patricia (Pat) Stressman and David Hazekamp will be vying for the positions along

with Kurt Hazard, Roy L. Holden, Steven Keglovitz, and Nathan Whipple.

Candidates for the school board positions were invited to submit information to *Fruitport Area News* regarding their candidacy. David Hazekamp did not respond. •

Pat Stressman

Candidate for Fruitport Community Schools Board of Education (Incumbent)

I am running for the Fruitport Community Schools School Board because I want to continue to make the children of our community be the best they can be. It is more than one person who makes decisions on a school board. I have been fortunate to have worked for the school system in the late 1960s through 1981 in the administrative offices. My knowledge of funding, contractual language, and staffing has helped me through all the years that I have been involved on the school board level. Although I served for 12 years and then left the board, I have returned with the same enthusiasm as my original tenure. Times are rough for everyone, but we must not let that take away from what the children of this day and age need. Technology has become an integral part of the lives of all students — preschool through college. We need to continually keep upgrading our school systems to handle the new requirements for learning.

Schools are more than just a place you send your child each day to sit in rows with about 30 desks and students in each class, as it was when I was growing up. Things have significantly changed, and we as older adults need to realize that the school is doing a lot more for children now than it ever did in the 50s and 60s. Classrooms are designed differently, children learn at different levels, teachers have higher degrees and specialties, libraries don't just contain books and magazines, and the "three R's" have expanded. I want to look out into the future, far beyond today, to give our children the chance to be a positive influence in the world. •

Roy Holden

Candidate for Fruitport Community Schools Board of Education

As a Fruitport Community Schools' Board member, I want the growth and success of children to be the main focus of all we do in as fiscally responsible a manner as possible. I am a strong believer in students' receiving advanced technology training, since the way of the future involves computers in any occupation as well as in social realms.

In this economy, as well as in plentiful times, it is essential to give our students the education required to be highly competitive in an ever-changing world. I believe that considering the short term and long term in each of Fruitport Community Schools' goals is vital to the success of this district in academics, facilities, and athletics.

Since my children are in first and sixth grades, I have a vested interest in Fruitport Community Schools for the long haul. As an involved parent who desires success for his and all children, I realize the magnitude of the decisions I would make and the exponential benefits they will have on Fruitport and the surrounding communities. I look forward to serving the community by listening to differing opinions, carefully weighing the ideas shared, and making intelligent decisions to benefit our kids and the future of our community. •

Committee member speaks out on school bond proposal Letter to the Editor

My name is Steve Keglovitz and I live in the Fruitport School District. I am fortunate to be one of the few who responded to Fruitport Schools' request for interested parties to evaluate and problem-solve the status of Fruitport's building and technology needs. The 30 or so concerned Fruitport residents who responded volunteered many hours touring all district facilities to evaluate needs, space (lack of), equipment, and building quality. We discussed various options to address identified needs, and the resounding consensus was to recommend building a new high school and renovate all other buildings to address space and technology issues. This whole process was done with a community forum, open communications on the school district's web site, and through the school's *Focus* newsletter. A lot of thought and effort by many volunteers and concerned citizens went into this ballot proposal.

The Facilities Study Committee was made up of concerned parent volunteers who based their decisions on providing Fruitport children with the highest quality education we can provide and the resources necessary to fulfill that goal. Educational tools, methods, and needs have changed. Our facilities simply cannot support these new technology methods and infrastructure needs. We were also cognizant of changes in state law that will force districts to provide full-day kindergarten. We currently do not have space available to add kindergarten classrooms without impacting other district programs.

The economy did factor into our decision to go before the voters at this time. We feel there will never be a better time to build. From construction costs to employment, this is an opportunity for residents to get an incredible "bang for their buck." Using local contractors/sub-contractors, an estimated 200 to 250 people may be put to work over the next five years, many who will be residents and neighbors of Fruitport. Local business will likely see a boost, as well. When 250 people work in a community, they eat at local restaurants, buy gas at local stations, and shop in local shops. The opportunity this proposal presents is significant for the entire community! Research states that providing a quality school enhances the value of homes and property and enhances the potential for future growth. With growth comes the potential of a quicker pay back of bonds.

Two informational community forums have been scheduled: March 24 and April 13, both to be held at the Fruitport High School auditorium beginning at 6:30 p.m. All residents are encouraged to attend a meeting to learn more about the proposal, have questions answered, and tour the high school facility. Also visit www.fruitportschools.net to read all the minutes and findings of the Facilities Study Committee. A tax calculator is also available at that site for you to determine the financial impact the bond proposal will have on your household.

Steve Keglovitz
4187 S. Quarterline



Twenty-one students from Fruitport High School's DECA chapter traveled to Dearborn during the weekend of March 13th, to compete in DECA's State Career Development Conference. Approximately 3,000 Michigan DECA students qualified to compete at the annual competition. DECA is a nationally recognized association of marketing students. Friday's events included the occupational exam, while Saturday's competition consisted of judged role plays and case studies. Emily Hoffman and Carly Hoekenga received top honors for their performance over the weekend. Emily Hoffman received a medallion for her overall performance, as well as a medallion for her role play. Carly Hoekenga received a medallion for her overall performance and has advanced to compete in April at the International Career Development Competition held in Anaheim, California.

Emily Hoffman and Jessica Shelton have also advanced to the International Conference for receiving Gold Level Certification for their written project based on Fruitport's School Based Enterprise, the Fruitport Marketplace School Store. The Fruitport Marketplace was one of only 72 school stores nation wide to receive this recognition.