

Rodman brings new views

Election winner says he opposed levy, not education

by SUSAN ROMANITIS

BORING — For Dave Rodman, who was elected March 31 to the Boring School Board, it won't be business as usual when he takes his seat on the board.

Rodman, who campaigned against the district's request for a two-year levy in the March election, said he will bring a new perspective to the board.

"I try to put my imagination to work as to the best way to solve a particular problem," Rodman said. "I anticipate that I'll be suggesting certain ways of doing things that have never been done that way around here before."

Rodman said he plans to encourage board members to be more actively involved in the management of the district.

"I think right now the board's position is to simply define a policy and let it be interpreted and carried out by the superintendent," he said.

But playing a more active role in the management of the district does not mean performing the superintendent's job, Rodman said.

"Heavens no, that's why he's paid and that's why that form of school district has lasted throughout recent history," Rodman said. "But I do believe that the board has to be more than just a group of figure heads adopting policies in general."

Rodman also presented some ideas for improving communications between residents and board members. Rodman, who has lived in the district for about 1½ years, has no children in the district's schools.

"My current perception is that the board is somewhat more separated from the district residents than I would like to see," he said. "Possibly I am ignorant of communications that go from the school to the parents through the student going home, but I certainly haven't seen anything outside of the press coming from the school or school board to non-parents."

Rodman envisioned a plan under which one or two board members each would work with three residents directly on a particular issue so the views of residents could come "right to the board."

"I don't know if this is old or workable in this area or not," Rodman said. "But things like that, I'm willing to try."



Staff photo by Terry Farris

Dave Rodman sits in Naas Building library where Boring School District Board meets.

Rodman also plans to promote regular review of the district's money matters.

"I think that's one of the ultimate obligations of the board," he said.

Rodman publicly advocated a no vote on the district's most recent levy request. The district's proposed two-year operating levy of \$97,200 a year failed 609-458.

The school board decided Feb. 17 to place the two-year serial levy on the March 31 ballot after state officials indicated they would not approve the district's closure plan.

Because of unemployment costs, state officials concluded that the district would have an ending fund balance of about \$20,000 whether the district closed schools to students April 2 or continued operating through the end of the fiscal year.

"It seemed to me that (district officials) had spent an awful lot of time on the closure plan when, indeed, in looking at the condition of the budget that was presented through the regular budgeting process, it seemed to me that there was an indicated budget carryover from this year into next year of close to \$70,000 or \$80,000," Rodman said.

Although the district's auditor has recommended against depleting the district's contingency fund, Rodman said he sees no problem in using contingency funds to keep schools open through the end of the school year.

"It's commonplace not to get down to a very small or no contingency, yes," Rodman said. "The point is, however, the original closure plan called for closure as of today."

"Even though it will require additional management of the funds early in this next school year and possibly merely postponing certain expenses until later in the year when the tax monies come in from the existing tax base levy and the other funds that are already coming into us, I don't see how that in itself is going to cause the education to suffer in that district," he said.

Rodman said he was "willing to deal with that" by matching revenue for 1987-88 with expenses for 1987-88 rather than planning to carry over funds from 1986-87 to 1987-88. He indicated he doubted that an "\$18,000 disaster" would happen before the end of the school year.

Rodman said he would accept "a good deal of credit" for the "sound

defeat" of the proposed levy. During his campaign, Rodman distributed flyers encouraging a no vote on the money measure.

With good management, the district can avoid excessive spending and still provide a sound education for the district's youngsters, Rodman said.

"I am a great believer in education," he said. "I did very well in schools and I'm very proud of that and I think that's prepared me to choose the kind of life that I happen to lead."

Rodman said he would like to see "a greater emphasis" placed on "solid subjects" that prepare students to make decisions later in life. He identified those subjects as math, basic science, history, English, reading, writing and "things that teach the individual to reason and to be able to understand what is going on around him or her."

The school board has the option of appointing Rodman to the board at this time to finish out the unexpired term of Gale Meier, who resigned in January.

Girtman takes place on board

Sandy gains new MHCC representative

Rod Girtman, a real estate broker who has served on the Mt. Hood Community College District Foundation Board, joined the college district board last week.

Girtman was elected March 31 to position 6 on the college district board. Girtman's district includes Sandy.

Girtman was sworn in April 8 at the regular district board meeting. He will finish out the unexpired term of Bonny McKnight, who resigned because she moved out of the district.

Girtman will begin serving his own term July 1.

"I was very pleased," Girtman said of his election to the board. "I was surprised by the amount that I won by."

Girtman captured 12,323 votes, Charlie Gilbert won 7,458 votes, Fred Sanchez garnered 6,716 votes and Leonard Pflaum collected 2,973 votes, according to final unofficial

mail-in election returns.

Girtman said his involvement in college and community activities helped win him the office. In addition to serving on the college foundation board, Girtman has served on the college's Vocational Technical Advisory Board.

A part-time real estate appraisal and associated courses instructor, Girtman is a National Association of Realtors director and a member of the Scholarship Committee of the Oregon Associations of Realtors.

"I know a lot of people," Girtman said, explaining why he thought voters selected him over the other three candidates.

Girtman, who in the past taught for approximately eight years at Mt. Hood, said he would like the college to again offer real estate classes. He said he would work to establish a real estate program which would lead to an associate's degree.

Girtman also said he would work to increase "industry involvement" at the college, particularly in the training area. Meeting the needs of industry is especially important at a time when the state is providing less and less financial support, he said.

"We could do more for private industry by finding out their needs for training employees, then offer courses that they would support with

contributions to the college," Girtman said during the campaign.

Girtman, 69, also said he would try to improve communications between the college and the public to increase support for college programs.

"The college is one of the great economic assets we have in east county," he said. "We must maintain this on a level that is beneficial to the whole community."

Evangelist to conduct Jewish tradition class

Mordecai DuShey, a Christian-Jewish evangelist, will be conducting a seminar at the Sandy Seventh-day Adventist Church April 17 and 18.

DuShey will present testimony on how to be a "complete Jew" and will perform the Havdalah service, the traditional Jewish closing of the Sab-

bath, as well as explaining the significance of the arba katan (priest's clothing), the kippah (skullcap) and the tallit (prayer shawl).

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