

D.M.E.A. SPECIAL REPORT

The Des Moines Education Association recommends support for incumbents
*Jane Hein and *Harold Sandahl in the School Board election September 8th.

JANE HEIN

Jane has served on the School Board for the past 3 years. During those years, she supported DMEA with her vote on 92% of issues facing the Board. (23 of 25). Support from Jane included votes on bell time improvements, non-discriminatory hiring policies, Vision 2005 and ratifying Collective Bargaining Agreements.

One negative vote came in the summer of 1997 when she voted to weaken the attendance policy. In 1998, Jane "corrected" that by voting to return to the old policy. The Zero Tolerance for Fighting policy was adopted at the same time and Jane was supportive.

Jane is emphasizing the following in her current campaign: basic education; discipline and safety; parental involvement; upgrading infrastructure; special attention to students with learning disabilities; vocational education; student fitness and wellness

Jane has a BS degree and taught for 5 years including 3 in the Des Moines system. She has been active in the PTA and other community organizations.

HAROLD SANDAHL

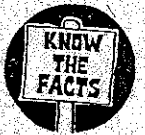
Harold Sandahl played a key role in saving 21 Smoother Sailing positions last year. Due to his great efforts, four board members listened to our input, stood firmly and stopped the administrative budget in its tracks. Harold and other Board members made it clear that the administration was to return with a new budget that retained Smoother Sailing without increasing class sizes.

Harold's public policy views have changed significantly over the past 3 years. Although he initially supported tuition tax credits and school vouchers, his experiences on the board have convinced him otherwise. He does not support expansion of tuition tax credits until such time as other unfunded mandates for public schools are fully funded.

Harold's votes the last year and a half were actually quite good for DMEA members. Other issues he supports include: no change in the current district anti-discrimination clause; the New Zero Tolerance for Fighting policy; improvements in the DSM Teacher Retirement System; Vision 2005 and the sales tax; return to the strict attendance policy.

Harold works as a Mechanical Engineer for Taylor Industries and currently has 3 children in the Des Moines public schools with another to start in a few years.

Please urge your friends and neighbors to vote for Jane and Harold!



The Process

A committee of 11 led by co-chairs Linda Young and Rose Scarpino developed and conducted candidate interviews on August 14. Only three candidates were seeking two open seats.

The interviews were wide-ranging and included questions about budget priorities, neighborhood schools and infrastructure needs. The committee also invited opinions about priorities, the role of a Board member, and the strengths and weaknesses of the District.

This year 2 of the 3 candidates are incumbents so the committee examined their voting records on DMEA supported proposals. You will see more about those results in the articles about Jane and Harold.

The final step in the process called for the 11-member interview committee to take their recommendation to the DMEA Executive Board for approval. That was done on August 17. The Board agreed.

Call the DMEA office if you can help or call the respective candidates. We have yard signs available. The interviews were taped so that any member can listen to the candidates.