

# Candidates answer school questions

**Richard Albee**



1) Age 37; wife, Linda; son, Timothy, 9; daughter Kristina, 5. Occupation: hardware retailer (Albee True Value Home Center). I have received a great deal of financial and management experience from

previous employment with National Bank of Detroit and Second National Bank of Saginaw. During the past six years in Cass City, experience includes: president, Retail Division of the Chamber of Commerce; president, Chamber of Commerce; secretary, Gavel Club. I have served and am continuing to serve on the Fourth of July Festival Committee.

Education: graduate of Cass City High School, B.S. Degree from Michigan State University.

2) If elected, I believe I could contribute a great deal in making the school board more informed and knowledgeable. I would like to do this by helping to organize the board into at least five subcommittees to include: school finance, school properties, personnel, curriculum and school legislation. It would be the responsibility of these committees to study and work diligently in their respective areas and report to the school board as a whole on a monthly basis.

I would also like to contribute to the board of education

by developing a system to build better channels of communications between the board and the school district population.

3) It is my opinion that Supt. Donald Crouse has done a commendable job in handling the financial affairs of our district. I feel our district can consider itself fortunate in receiving more education for our monies that the majority of districts in the state. It is also my opinion that a more educated school board in the area of school finance can help a great deal in keeping school expenditures in line.

Concerning the proposed millage increase, it is my opinion that due to the runaway inflation in the 1979-80 school year and the anticipated inflation rate in 1980-81, this millage increase is definitely needed to continue to educate our children.

4) The curriculum revisions that were recently made for the 1980-81 school year were extremely welcome and long overdue. I believe that our curriculum in the areas of vocational

and secretarial education seems very complete.

Our college preparatory curriculum still seems to need improvement, especially in the English composition and language departments. It is my opinion that the board of education has a very important job to do in reviewing our total school curriculum at least once per school year.

5) Administrators' salaries have been a primary concern of mine since I have learned that our school system has no salary administration program.

If elected to the board, it would be my immediate concern to study our administrators' salaries in comparison to similar school districts. Upon reviewing job descriptions for each administrator, salary ranges should be determined indicating each administrator's minimum, midpoint, and maximum salary range. These salary ranges should then be reviewed annually by the personnel committee of the board.

With no salary administration program, it is my opinion that if salaries are not already out of line, it will not take them long to get that way.

6) It is my opinion that our good teachers are the most valuable asset in our school district. If we want a quality teaching staff, we must not only thin out the teachers not doing a commendable job but we must also pay our good teachers wages that are competitive with any school in the Thumb.

Bargaining by the teachers' bargaining association and the Cass City School District's representative should be done in good faith and in my opinion should have been started two weeks ago.

## 6 questions

### 8 candidates tell their answers

Cass City School District residents when they go to the polls Monday will have a choice of eight candidates seeking the two seats open on the school board.

Only one is presently a member of the board, Dr. E. Paul Lockwood. Art Severance decided not to seek reelection. The two terms open are for four years.

Polls at Cass City High School will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

To help voters to make their choices, the Chronicle asked each candidate to submit written responses to six questions.

Below are the questions, followed by the candidates' replies. A story explaining the three millage proposals appears on page 1.

- 1) Personal background: name, age, address, family, occupation, experience (organizations of which you are a member, boards served on, etc.).
- 2) What areas do you feel you can contribute the most to for the Cass City educational system?
- 3) Do you feel that Cass City is spending too much, too little, or just enough for education. Do you support the district's request for an increase in millage in the June 9 election?
- 4) Do you feel that the curriculum is adequate in the elementary, intermediate and high school? If you feel improvements are needed, at which school and in what areas?
- 5) There has been discussion that administrators' salaries are too high. Do you agree or disagree and what do you think salaries should be?
- 6) The district will be negotiating with the Tri-County Bargaining Association for a new teachers' contract. It is probable that the district would like to settle for about 8-9 percent increase in overall costs. Do you agree? If not, would you be in favor of more or less and would you accept a strike if nothing else worked?

**ELECT**

## Ben Hobart

**CANDIDATE**  
For  
**Cass City**  
**Board of Education**

I am a graduate of Cass City High School. My children have either graduated from or are attending Cass City Schools.

I am a farmer and taxpayer.

Your support on Monday, June 9, 1980 will be appreciated.

Paid for by candidate.

## HELLO

I Am  
**Fred Matthews**  
Candidate  
**Cass City**  
**Board of Education**

47 years old, dairy farmer, married, father of 3 with 2 children attending Evergreen School. Member Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Financial sect. of Good Shepherd past 7 years. Wants to keep a representative of Evergreen Schools on Cass City Board. Will represent the wishes of rural people to the School Board. I will try to spend the taxpayers' money wisely while maintaining a quality education program. I would like to work with the elementary program to see that the young people get off to a good start. I will work toward upgrading the English, writing and communication in our schools. I will encourage greater participation in Vocational Training, particularly our new Tuscola Skill Center. I will back our Principals in dealing with disciplinary problems. We need to implement a quality sex education program. We need to give as much encouragement to the performing arts as we give our athletic programs.

Paid for by candidate.

## Danny Allen

1) Age 36, of 5960 Main Street, Deford. He and his wife, Patricia, have two children, David, 16, starting 11th grade in the fall, and Sue, 12, starting 7th grade. I am self employed, having been in business in Deford since 1967, owning and operating Dan's Auto and Fireplace Shop.

I served in the Air Force from 1961-65 as a missile technician.

I am presently head of the administrative board of the Deford United Methodist church. I am also serving in my second year on the Elkland-Novesta United Way board, active in the Cass City Layman's Club, and am a member of several other organizations.

2) I feel that I can give representation to the school board from the Deford area. I can also contribute to the development of a more comprehensive school bus maintenance program.

3 and 4) I feel that our

## Harry E. Capps

1) Age 38; wife Rita; son Jeremy, 9; daughter Stacey, 8. Address: 4580 N. Seeger Street. Occupation: Presbyterian minister, 11 years. Experience: B.A. Grove City College, Grove City, PA; M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, N.J.; M.A. Central Michigan University

I would attempt to work towards more informed board through the development of sub-committees. I would hope to contribute to the climate of working relationships between the board, administration and school employees.

I think the positive relationship which already exists between our village and schools can be deepened and enhanced by improving the communication channels between them.

I would hope to encourage the exploration of federal monies which are available, to expand aspects of our educational system.

Our athletic program is excellent for a small school. I would hope also to bring due recognition and appreciation of the arts and the impact they can have on students' lives.

I am involved with people in our community through my work. I am in touch with many residents and am in a position to be attentive to their educational interests and needs.

Capable teachers seem to be slowly filtering out of our school system or out of the profession entirely. I would

school system's costs are quite moderate when compared to other systems around the state.

I feel that some improvements need to be made in our school's programming in order for children to get a better understanding of reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, and spelling, the basic education that is needed for every day life and communication. I feel we need more discipline in the school system, remembering that discipline begins at home and should be a continuation at school. Whatever happened to self-discipline instead of every one just doing their thing?

Yes, I support all three new millage proposals.

5) I do not know if administration salaries are too high. I do feel that the salaries are adequate.

6) I feel that in consideration of the inflation rate and salaries paid in other systems, that 8-9 percent in salaries would seem appropriate and not out of line at all if you look at industries around the United States.

I believe administrators just received approximately 9 percent increases for the 1980-81 school year.

(August, 1980).

I have had 11 years' experience in church administration in Philadelphia, Pa., and Cass City. I have been involved with church finances and staff management. I have served on numerous boards and committees. To mention a few: Delaware County Board of Mental Health (Pennsylvania); State of Michigan Task Force on Aging, Offices on Aging, Lansing; counselor, 71st District Court, Tuscola county; co-chairman, Cass City Bicentennial Celebration; Caro Area Services for the Handicapped; co-chairman, first annual Village Bach Festival; member of Rotary.

2) In light of my past educational experience and the fact that I am always looking for new educational opportunities, I would bring to the school board a willingness to learn. I expect to take the necessary measures to become fully knowledgeable with the operation of our school system. This will include visiting the classroom to become familiar with the basics of the educational process as well as acquainting myself with the complicated matters of school finance.

hope to make every effort to retain them through proper recognition and support.

3) I think Supt. Donald Crouse has done a superior job in fiscal responsibility and financial management. I feel our district is getting a good education for the dollar spent. I support an increase in millage. Should the millage be defeated, the district will pay in the long run through a cutback in staff.

We have in Cass City a school system in which all parts must work together effectively to enable this system to function properly. If one area or aspect of the system is crippled because a millage increase was not approved, the entire system suffers.

4) The curriculum for 1980-81 has been improved. There seems to be, however, a question concerning outdated texts and teaching resources. English composition and languages could benefit from further emphasis. The Michigan Assessment Tests indicate that following elementary school, something is going wrong. The problem needs further investigation.

The adult community education program has been a real asset to our community.

The vocational education courses in our district are indeed strong. I believe that we need to take a further look at the co-op program: That it is doing what it is supposed to do, that training is indeed happening on the job, and that educational opportunities are not bypassed for the sake of a weekly income.

5) There is that old adage: "You get what you pay for." Certainly that is true in the area of administration. Without capable leadership the entire educational process is encumbered. I believe that a school district must be willing to pay the going rate to acquire and maintain responsible, skilled leadership. Merit increases may be given according to performance evaluations.

6) I am not familiar with negotiations; however, if elected I will become involved in them. I would hope that settlement would be made without a strike. I know of few, including teachers, who favor this alternative over other means of settlement. I doubt if our teachers will accept 8 percent, but presently I am in no position to state what would be fair without understanding their total position and determining how this compares to surrounding districts.

(Edited slightly for space considerations: Editor).

## Ben Hobart

1) Age 47, of 2558 Hobart Road, Gageton. Married with seven children, three previously graduated from Cass City. One graduated this year, three still attending Cass City schools. I belong to St. Agatha's Catholic church in Gageton of which I am an active member.

I am and have been active in various farm organizations. I am a full-time farmer. We grow beans, beets, corn and wheat.

2) Because I am a father, I want my children to have the needed training I believe they will need to face life. Because I am a taxpayer, I want a good return on my tax dollars and I am willing to spend time and energy to make these two areas compatible.

3) Our board and administrators have been able to give us a good dollar return. I think it would have been very hard to get more for our tax dollars. We are spending about right and we will need all the millage issues to pass to continue on course. We need them.

4) Our elementary program is sound. Our intermediate program needs more attention in light of our scores on state assessment tests. At the high school level, we will have to wait until we can see what impact the new skill center in Caro will have. At that time, we can view our own curriculum and make whatever adjustments we should. Overall, we have a sound curriculum.

5) Administrators' salaries are high. One of our strengths is that we are able to have a continuity of administration because our people stay on the job. That also raises their salaries. Please turn to next page.

**ELECT**

## RICHARD ALBEE

Cass City  
Public Schools  
**SCHOOL BOARD**  
**ELECTION**  
June 9, 1980

Paid for by candidate.

**ELECT**

## HARRY E. CAPPS

Cass City  
Public Schools  
**SCHOOL BOARD**  
**ELECTION**  
June 9, 1980

Paid for by candidate.

### THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Houghton and West

Weekly Thought "Everything is wrong that is almost right."

Services Wed. - Prayer Meeting 7:30  
Sunday - 9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Worship  
6:30 p.m. Family Hour

Messages A.M. .... "Wonders in Worship"  
P.M. .... "What Does the Bible Say About God?"

Rev. T. W. Teall, Pastor 872-3155  
Mary L. Hanby, Church Worker 872-2888