

Ben Mosley Re-Elected School Board President

By Leslie Rott

Ben Mosley was re-elected president of the Mackinac Island Board of Education at the board's annual organizational meeting Thursday, July 7. The meeting also sets the regular meeting schedule and selects the board's attorney and school bank.

Paul Wandrie was re-elected vice-president of the board and Trish Martin was re-elected secretary. Sara Chambers was re-elected treasurer, beating nominee Jason St. Onge by a vote of four to three.

Mr. St. Onge and Leanne Brodeur were also sworn in as trustees, both having won new terms on the board this spring.

Superintendent Jack Dehring was appointed executive secretary and assistant treasurer to the board, which authorizes him to sign all bank statements. He was also designated as the individual responsible for posting public notices regarding regular and special meetings of the board of education.

A meeting schedule for next year was also approved at the organizational meeting. Meetings will be held the last Thursday of every month, instead of every third Thursday, as Superintendent Dehring has Intermediate School District meetings the third Thursday of most months. Two exceptions will be in November and December, when board meetings will be held the third Thursday to accommodate the Thanksgiving holiday and winter break.

Meetings during the school year will be held at 6 p.m. and during the summer at 7:30 p.m. The Mackinac Island Board of Education will meet as follows: July 28 and August 25, and September 22 at 7:30 p.m., October 27, November 17, December 15, January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, all at 6 p.m., and May 25 and June 22 at 7:30 p.m.

First National Bank of St. Ignace was chosen as the depository for school funds. Super-

intendent Dehring said that the bank has been meeting the schools banking needs for many years and he recommended continuing to use their services. The board noted that this was the first organizational meeting in 25 years that was not attended by Jack Ryerse, the Island branch manager of First National Bank of St. Ignace who retired last winter.

The Mackinac Island Board of Education is a member of the Michigan Association of School Boards, and Superintendent Dehring is a member of the Michigan Association of School Administrators and the American Association of School Administrators. The board voted to continue membership in all of those organizations for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

City Clerk Karen Lennard was appointed as the school election administrator. In previous years, the superintendent has acted in that capacity, but the new state election consolidation law has resulted in school and city elections being held on the same day, which will now allow the two entities to share expenses.

The law firm of Thrun, Maatsch, and Nordberg have been the board's legal counsel for many years and the board voted to keep them as such for the 2005-2006 year. It was also decided that the superintendent and treasurer are designated to use the safe deposit box and two signatures are required on checks of more than \$500 in the general and payroll accounts.

The board also re-adopted Policy #5090, which deals with issues of conflict of interest and ethical responsibilities outlines the appropriate chain of command when dealing with conflicts in the school system.

The next regular school board meeting will be July 28 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a special budget hearing before the regular meeting at 7 p.m. and immediately following the budget hearing will be a breakfast program hearing.

Michigan Politics

By George Weeks



Granholt Begins Japan Trip With Sendoff

Critics of Governor Jennifer Granholm are providing quite a sendoff for her Friday departure on a nine-day mission to Japan to lure jobs and investment to Michigan.

The GOP is running statewide 60-second radio ads contending Michigan is "losing one job every 10 minutes on Granholm's watch."

U.S. Rep. Candice Miller, R-Harrison Township, who still ever-so-slightly leaves open the door to a possible 2006 challenge of Granholm, knocks Granholm's handling of economic issues and opined Thursday: "I think it's increasingly difficult, if not impossible, for the governor to get reelected."

The same day, an editorial in the *Wall Street Journal*, where Granholm was rapped in March and again in a July 7 op-ed by two Michigan Republicans, referred to her Japan trip and cited "Michigan's inhospitable tax climate."

Now, beyond agendas of Granholm's critics and supporters, comes *Governing* magazine's "Source Book 2005" independent ranking of the states in more than 40 categories. Michigan looks good in several of them, including being seventh in per capita spending for education.

But woe is Michigan on economic grading.

No surprise here: Consistent with recent monthly jobless figures, it's at the bottom of the "Unemployment" chart. In calculating comparisons on 2000-05 jobless rates and 2001 and 2004 personal income figures, it's dead last on the "Economic Growth" chart.

The "State Economic Momentum" chart averages most recent one-year changes in employment, personal income and relates each state's performance to the national average. Michigan ranked 50th.

Reacting to this, Granholm Press Secretary Liz Boyd said, "Michigan is not an aberration but part of a trend," affecting Midwest states reeling from the economic downturn and "global economic forces."

Before Republicans trumpet lack of economic momentum, they should note that in May of 2002, Michigan's index rank on *Governing's* scale among the

states was 47th. So it's not that Granholm inherited robust momentum.

Another area where *Governing* ranks Michigan at the bottom (48th) is per capita "Highway Spending." The figures are 2002 and pre-Granholm.

It has long been a struggle for Michigan to get a decent return on highway and other dollars sent to Washington, regardless of party affiliation in the state's congressional delegation.

On Saturday, Granholm called to acknowledge "an unfortunate choice of words" when she told me in Traverse City a week earlier that Rep. Rick Baxter, R-Hanover, should "be removed from office" for co-authoring a "treasonous" July 7 op-ed column in the *Wall Street Journal* "trashing Michigan" on its tax and business climate. Her "angry" remarks were published in *The Detroit News* July 11.

Granholm emphasized, "I will never apologize for defending Michigan," but said her comments on the column were "perhaps clouded (because) I feel so passionately that we should work together to beat the drums" for the state and for tax reform.

Passions are cooled, and it's a good bet that negotiations underway in Lansing will produce a compromise on changing the tax structure and stimulating the economy.

Irwin to Ag

When Granholm campaigned

in the Upper Peninsula, former state Sen. Mitch Irwin, D-Sault Ste. Marie, was often at her side. He then headed the agriculture team of governor-elect Granholm's transition office. She then named him as director of the Department of Management and Budget, where she said he "excelled at saving dollars and improving service for our citizens."

When Irwin was appointed last week by the Commission of Agriculture to succeed Dan Wyant, a holdover from Engler days, as director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, Granholm said: "I'm certain he'll use that same zeal for making government more effective to both protect our food supply and grow our agriculture industry."

Unfortunately, a governor lacks the power to name the agriculture director. But Granholm is elated that a member of Team Granholm will be in that job.

The Michigan Farm Bureau also is happy: "We appreciate Mitch Irwin's agricultural background, having grown up on a small farm in the rural Upper Peninsula where he gained practical experience farming beef cattle, hay, and horses, as well as being active in 4-H. We're also pleased that Mitch Irwin's interest in agriculture continues today with the breeding of horses."

George Weeks is the political columnist for The Detroit News and is syndicated by Superior Features.

Letter to the Editor

Dog Owners Should Pay

To the Editor:

I have to pay a hefty fee to bring my children, their bicycles, and myself to the Island, so I think it's only fair that dog owners should have to pay to bring their dogs to the Island. Additionally, I have had to clean more dog "do", and no, it is not the same as horse manure, off the bottom of my shoes this summer than any summer before. So, it seems that with each fee paid to bring a dog to the Island there should

be issued some type of sanitary bag to the owners of the dogs that "do" on the Island.

Jane Winston
Centerville, Georgia



Town Crier

34 Market St., P.O. Box 532, Mackinac Island, MI 49757
Telephone: (906) 847-3788

www.MackinacIslandTownCrier.com

For business and subscription matters, phone (906) 643-9150

Volume 52, Number 13
July 23 to July 29, 2005

Published 22 times a year, weekly from May through September, once in October, December, February, and April.

Subscription: 22 issues a year Mail: \$22 Web: \$20

Periodical postage paid at Mackinac Island, Michigan.

Additional postage paid at St. Ignace, MI and Gaylord, MI

USPS Periodical Publication Number - 324-060

Postmaster: Send address change notices to
Mackinac Island Town Crier, P.O. Box 532, Mackinac Island, MI 49757

Publisher Emeritus - Wesley H. Maurer (1897-1995)

Publisher and Editor Wesley Maurer, Jr.
Associate Publisher/Business Manager Mary Maurer
Associate Editor Karen Gould
Writers Jessica Delaney, Leslie Rott
Advertising Marty Wolski
Subscriptions Wendy Colegrove

Capture Mackinac Island



with a subscription to the



Town Crier

To receive a one year subscription please enclose a check or money order.

Subscription: 22 issues a year Mail: \$22 Web: \$20

Mail to:

Mackinac Island Town Crier

c/o The St. Ignace News

P.O. Box 277

St. Ignace, MI 49781

www.MackinacIslandTownCrier.com

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Mackinac Island Yacht Club Bridge Results

In Mackinac Island Yacht Club Bridge League games for the week ending Wednesday, July 20, Rita Sue Cohen placed first, Nicki Krzykowski placed second, and Jane Burdett placed third.