

# Communication Among School Administration, Staff Needed

\* Continued from page 1

to throw it right out there," said Mr. St. Onge. "I don't expect a vote in the next 30 seconds, there'll be some discussion, but I'm going to make a motion to extend the option on Dr. Schrock's contract."

Trustee Sara Chambers seconded the motion, however,

trustees Patricia Martin and Leanne Brodeur believed the issue should be tabled to allow the board time to review Dr. Schrock's evaluations. Board members received a compilation of each trustee's evaluations that evening.

Mr. St. Onge pressed for a vote, saying the school's attor-

ney told him state law required the board to take action by March 30 or the contract would automatically be renewed, overriding wording in the school's contract with Dr. Schrock.

Trustee Paul Wandrie also supported a vote.

"He has to know where he stands now," he said of Dr. Schrock. "He's got to know up front."

Speaking as a concerned citizen and noting that she is not taking pay for recording minutes of the meeting, school secretary Barb Fisher spoke of the frustration between staff and Dr. Schrock.

"Maybe I'm putting my job on the line here, and if I am, believe me, I'm scared saying this, but I have had the worst year since I've been here," she said. "There is so much mistrust. Nobody trusts anybody right now. The staff is grumbling. We don't function well, we don't communicate. The superintendent communicates with only a couple of board members, not with all of them. . . . There's been way too many discussions that are held that not the whole board is a part of," she continued. "There is way too much good-old-boy syndrome."

Mrs. Fisher believes issues need to be addressed out in the open, among all board members.

"There are lots of concerns, and maybe these concerns can be addressed, but they have to be addressed by the whole board," she said. "Some of them are left out in the cold."

As solutions to some of the issues, Ms. Brodeur suggested that agenda items that require action by the board should allow time for board education and discussion. She also asked that no action be taken on items that are added to the agenda at the last minute, and that public comment be allowed at the end of the agenda, instead of at the beginning of a meeting.

"My concerns are that there are issues brought up as an action item before we are able to discuss it," she said. "It's not

a fair thing to do. It seems we are rushing things through."

Adding public comment toward the end of the agenda, Ms. Brodeur said, will also allow the audience who attend the meetings to react to the issues that the board is discussing.

Ms. Martin asked that Dr. Schrock make available to all board members the correspondence addressed to the board and school. She cited a letter regarding the board's offer of a buy-out option for tenured teachers, which she never saw.

Dr. Schrock said he responded to the letter personally, as directed by Mr. Mosley.

"We need the whole board to look at that," responded Ms. Martin.

From the audience, Erin Bagbey, a school graduate, said communication from the staff and teachers to Dr. Schrock must be improved, as well.

"I think a chain of command needs to be followed, and I think the school hasn't had a chain of command for a long time," she said. "We've had [former superintendents] Mr. [Gary] Urman and Mr. [Jack] Dehring, and they're like friends; we've grown with them and lived with them in the community," she said, "and now, all of a sudden, somebody's coming in and he's seeing stuff needing to be changed and he's changing things right away and he's stepping up to the plate and doing what's best for the kids. I think a lot of the staff members have a problem with that."

Dr. Donald Weersing, the Island's year-around physician and a parent of five children,

expressed sympathy for Dr. Schrock's position and the school's difficulty in adjusting to a new superintendent this year.

"I feel sorry for the employees of the school and I feel sorry for Dr. Schrock," he said. "I know what it's like to come into an institution that has been in the community for a long time, and try to do a good job. There is a certain amount of status quo and certain amount of change that has to be made. There is a lot of misunderstanding, especially when somebody comes in from outside and has changes.

"I don't think, from what I've seen, Dr. Schrock has been jumping in, making a lot of changes," added Dr. Weersing. "There is a lot of mistrust and misunderstanding because we don't know where it's going to go. Nine months, one year, is not enough time for an administrator to come into a facility that has been going on for 20 years and make changes. That would be very irresponsible.

"I understand where there is mistrust and being uncomfortable," said Dr. Weersing, "but I also have support for Dr. Schrock and found him to be compassionate, professional, and caring about my children more than anything else."

Former superintendent Richard Bolander said he wondered if teachers at staff meetings are confronting the issues with the superintendent, or giving lip service and complaining behind his back.

"I know this goes on from experience," he said, "and I

\* Please turn to page 12



## Students Get 'Medieval' on Reading

As Keely Johnson (back, at left) and Amelia Roe look on, first-grader Nicholas Davis is knighted by teacher Liz Staats-Burt Friday, March 23. The school's March reading month events followed a Middle Ages theme. Students were knighted for reaching reading goals. (Photograph courtesy of Susan Bennett)

**NOW SERVING**  
**"Great Turtle" Island**  
**ELLIOTT**

Refrigeration • Air Conditioning • Duct Cleaning  
 Heating • Custom Sheet Metal  
 Plumbing • Hot Tubs • Gas Fireplaces  
 Manufactured Stone

**Offering Upfront Pricing with a  
 100% Performance Guarantee**

906-632-9700 • Toll Free 866-817-3066 • fax 906-632-4646  
 562 E. Spruce / P.O. Box 37 / Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
 Web site: [www.heatup.com](http://www.heatup.com)

## OBITUARIES

### Thomas 'Jim' Kolatski

Thomas "Jim" Kolatski of Mackinac Island was a paint crew maintenance foreman for the Mackinac Island State Parks Commission on the Island, where he had lived since 1956. He retired from the position nine years ago after serving the park for 28 years. He also served in the National Guard for seven years.

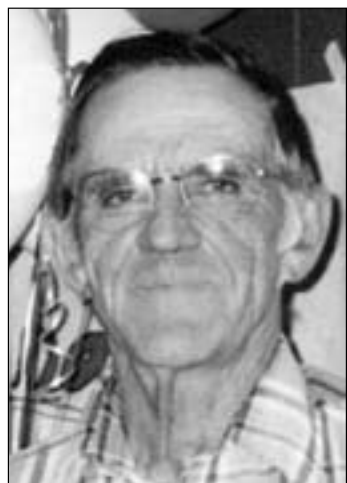
Mr. Kolatski died at the age of 70 early Friday morning, April 6, 2007, at Cheboygan Community Hospital in Cheboygan.

He was born in Cheboygan March 16, 1937, to Frank and Agatha (nee Barrette) Kolatski.

He served on the Mackinac Island Public School Board of Education and Mackinac Island City Council.

He married Lorna Cowell on Mackinac Island September 1, 1956, and she survives him.

Mr. Kolatski is also survived by three sons and their families, Thomas J. and Luanne Kolatski of Mackinac Island, Timothy and Kim Kolatski of Mackinac Island, and Norman and Cortney Kolatski of Cheboygan; two daughters and their families, Lorna Webster of Cheboygan and Louann and Ben Mosley of Mackinac Island; two brothers and their families, Ray and Lois Kolatski and George and Gerri Kolatski, all of Cheboygan; a sister, Ruth Barrette of Cheboygan; 23



Thomas 'Jim' Kolatski

grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Gary Kolatski January 31, 2001, a brother, Pete Kolatski, and two sisters, Pat LaFrinere and Barbara Barach.

Visitation was Monday, April 9, at Dodson Funeral Home in St. Ignace and Tuesday, April 10, at the Kolatski residence on Mackinac Island.

Services were Wednesday, April 11, at 12:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Catholic Church on Mackinac Island with Pastor Ken Straight officiating.

Burial will be in Cottle Cemetery in Pickford.

Dodson Funeral Home of St. Ignace assisted the family with arrangements.

**Login To Your Hometown Bank From Around The World**  
[www.centralsavingsbank.com](http://www.centralsavingsbank.com)



View a List of Canceled Checks and Deposits

Print Deposit and Loan Account History

Pay Your Bills

Reorder Checks

Send Us a Message

Make Loan Payments

Transfer Funds Between Accounts

**CSB CENTRAL SAVINGS BANK**

Sault Ste. Marie ■ DeTour-Drummond ■ Kinross ■ Pickford  
 Rudyard ■ Cedarville ■ St. Ignace ■ Mackinac Island

[www.centralsavingsbank.com](http://www.centralsavingsbank.com)

