

Seeks parents' school views

Gerald Z. Marer, 34
Attorney
131 Dunsmuir Way
Menlo Park

Gerald (Jerry) Marer is seeking a two-year term on the Ravenswood City School District (elementary) Board of Trustees.

He is 34 and an attorney with Keogh, Marer & Flicker in Palo Alto. He lives at 131 Dunsmuir Way, Menlo Park, with his wife, Joan, a volunteer art teacher in the district. Their two daughters attend Flood School.

Marer holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Michigan and earned his law degree at Stanford University Law School.

His activities in the district include membership in the Citizens Finance Committee, the Reading Committee and the Unity Committee. He was chairman of the Reading Committee, which, after 18 months of study, resulted in changes in the reading curriculum which raised the reading achievement and test scores of Ravenswood students.

Here is his statement:

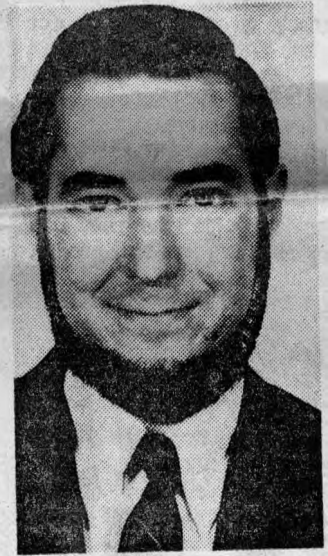
"My main effort as a school board member will be to try to ask each parent in the district, 'What do you want your school to do for your children?' I will go to homes throughout the district to PTA meetings and to community groups to ask that question. Then I will work with the administration and teachers to achieve it.

"I will be a full time board member, do my homework, attend all meetings, and do my fair share of the work of the district. I will speak up as an independent board member trying to represent all citizens and to improve the education of all children.

"As an attorney, I work every day to help individuals and groups of people to solve their problem and better their lives, and I will use this experience as a board member in dealing with people and problems.

"Specifically, I support involving local community workers in our schools as counselors, paid classroom aides, volunteers, and as advisers to the school board. I support our teachers, who have worked under trying conditions, and will encourage them to actively participate in district planning to achieve a flexible curriculum and methods best suited for the individual advancement of each child. I support our superintendent and will continue to work with him to maintain the good name of our district and our community.

"I believe each board member should keep close watch on district finances and I will do just that. The present board's failure to do that resulted in financial crisis last year. I have urged, and will continue to urge, the board to issue monthly financial reports which should be made public, and to plan budget needs and priorities



GERALD MARER

as early as possible with the aid of teachers and citizens. This is necessary so the board can concentrate on its main job of educating children. At the same time, I will work with our community leaders to influence Sacramento and Washington to increase state and federal funds for our schools.

"Finally, I believe the board, administration, teachers and community workers should be accountable to our community, and I support their evaluation by our community.

"I hope to earn my way as a board member and to help achieve the best possible education for every child."

Executive seeks 4-year term

Ralph G. Cahn, 36,
Department Store manager,
442 Falk Court,
Menlo Park.

Ralph G. Cahn, 36, is a department store manager who is seeking one of the two four-year terms on the Ravenswood City School District now held by incumbent Robert Hoover and Syrtiller Kabat.



RALPH CAHN

Cahn, of 442 Falk Court, Menlo Park, is a graduate of Palo Alto schools and the 195 class of Stanford University, where he majored in English. He later spent two years in the Army.

He is a member of the Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Sierra Club. He is the vice president of the Hillsdale Merchant's council, and treasurer of the O'Conner School and Community Group.

Cahn is married and has two children in the Ravenswood District.

Here is his statement:

The problems of our district are lack of money and poor money management. Although we have the highest tax rate of any district in San Mateo County, money spent per child is second lowest in the county. The present board has not taken necessary action to maximize revenues from state and federal government.

During the first three years of the now-ending term they have overseen expenditure of nearly \$1 million in excess of budget so that the next four years will see the district

operate with its hands tied by debt to the State of California.

A change is needed. We need action in advance of problems, not when it's too late.

I am store manager of the Emporium Hillsdale and believe my past experience and present responsibilities have some relevance to overseeing a large school district. I believe the board needs new members with experience in areas outside education.

I have and will continue to urge the district to make use of management consultant services available free from a responsible private agency.

School board members should attend school board meetings. Good management starts with interest and requires questioning by board members, then prompt action.

Our teacher and administrator staff is outstanding and able to make good decisions with help. I expect to rely on their abilities. I deplore recommendations that they be evaluated by teams of semi-informed administrators.

The board's attitude should consistently reflect belief in progress through integration.