

Profile of a Candidate . . .

DR. JOHN McCLURE

Kurt T. Shery, 22307 Kent Ave., Board of Education incumbent; resident of district 16 years; M. D., physician and surgeon, past chief-of-staff, Torrance Memorial Hospital; gymnasium (high school), university, medical school, Germany, attended Teacher's College, Columbia University, instructor Academy for Physical Education, University of Berlin, Teacher's College, instructor Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, post-graduate study U.S.C. Medical School; past president South-West District L.A. County Medical Assn., past vice chairman Smog Committee L.A. County Medical Assn., first elected chairman, Palos Verdes School District Unification Board, chairman Boys and Girls Work Committee Torrance Kiwanis Club, Kiwanis Foreign Relations Committee, Torrance YMCA, Boy Scouts, Community Chest.

Teachers are now welcome at all board meetings, and their suggestions are carefully considered.

C) Budget allotments. More than 80 per cent of our budget goes for salaries. The remainder has to cover operations, maintenance, utilities, supplementary books, other educational materials.

The board has been carefully watching the estimates, so as to maintain the required financial reserve.

During the year numerous program additions were made by the legislature, which failed to include appropriations in the legislation requiring, for instance, foreign language instruction in the 6th to 8th grades, aggravating an already precarious financial situation.

D) Summer school program. Our summer schools are an outstanding success. At no extra expense to our Torrance tax payers, students, who are behind in their subjects, can catch up and those, who desire extra work, can take courses they could not fit into their regular program.

This could actually be an excellent time for driver education, making the time spent on it now available for expansion of the regular program, thus enabling Torrance students to additional education.

E) Special services. The present board favors increased emphasis on discipline and respect for authority.

Our program makes available "Basic Education" to most of the "Special Children," who cannot be fitted into the regular classes. This is a nationwide problem and outstanding researchers in the field constantly present new suggestions.

Our board has declared its support of a measure in the Legislature to include the "neurologically handicapped" children in this special State Aid program.

3. What means do you favor for financing new school construction?

Bonds are the only fair means for financing school construction by distributing the relatively small annual cost evenly on all whose children use the schools.

In a community with a population explosion such as Torrance, 30,000 students have to be housed now. Soon, we will have 35,000 or more! Our citizens have met this challenge without asking for expensive-Federal Aid!

J. H. Hull Supt. of Schools

Mrs. Heaton Lists Platform; Stresses Factual History

Mrs. K. Maureen Heaton, the wife of George L. Heaton, general superintendent, Rome Cable, Torrance branch of Alcoa Aluminum, became a candidate for the Board of Education because, as she said, of a "concern over finding a downgrading of American principles in the textbooks used in our schools."

Mrs. Heaton said her platform is based on a solid educational program, including the three R's, reading, writing and arithmetic, phonics, and minimum standards which must be met.

Mrs. Heaton said that American history should be taught factually, with reference to the original source material and taught as history, not as part of social studies.

"Geography," she says, "should be taught as geography, with recognition of the true entities of countries which are now behind the Iron Curtain, and gradually losing their identities."

Mrs. Heaton said those countries are part of the heritage of many American citizens, "and their children should know and be proud of their origins."

Other points made by Mrs. Heaton are:

Exploration of the possible need to convert one high school into a manual arts school.

Re-evaluate time spent on non-basic subjects.

Fair pay for teachers and a study to determine some means of rewarding outstanding work.

Teachers should not be expected to use their free time to police the campus.

Encourage a climate of pride in accomplishment for both student and teacher.

Recognition that board members represent the people and not themselves.

"In order to fulfill that duty," said Mrs. Heaton, "a comprehensive questionnaire to all parents requesting their opinions and suggestions for improving the educational program would give a clear directive from the people on which to base board policy."

Mrs. Heaton is the mother of two sons, Warren, 22, and George Jr., 16, who attends Torrance High School.

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Dr. Hull's View of Bond Issue

The fact that the coming bond issue will not increase the existing tax rate of the Torrance Unified School District is difficult for many to believe.

Perhaps the best way to explain the situation is that it is like a revolving charge account where the minimum monthly payment is not increased by a small addition to the balance.

The reason for this fact is that the district is paying off each year 02 million of its \$23 million in outstanding bonded indebtedness.

The building program requires about \$2 million per year for the next four years to keep us off half sessions.

The Board of Education simply authorizes the amount needed each year to be sold. Since this is about equal to the amount paid off, the debt remains about the same and the tax rate does not increase, though it is extended a little longer.

The \$8 million bond issue is expected to keep us out of trouble for about four years and will be used only as needed.

J. H. Hull Supt. of Schools

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