



**Joan Wadsworth stresses continued commitment to Northville Public Schools as she launches campaign for Michigan House of Representatives**

Long-time Northville Board of Education member Joan Wadsworth will continue to make her responsibility to Northville Public Schools a top priority as she launches her campaign for the Michigan House of Representatives 20<sup>th</sup> District seat in the upcoming November 2, 2010 election.

The 20<sup>th</sup> House District is comprised of the townships and cities of Northville and Plymouth, the City of Wayne, and the eastern edge of Canton Township. Rep. Marc Corriveau, D-Northville, who currently serves the district, has announced he will seek Michigan's 7<sup>th</sup> Senate seat in the November election.

"I am deeply committed to Northville's school children, families and staff and intend to continue to work hard on their behalf," said Wadsworth, who officially shared her intention to run for the state office with fellow Board of Education members and district officials, as well as others in attendance, at the February 16 school board meeting. "I don't believe I have missed a board meeting in 16 years and I plan to maintain that record.

"I am confident I can balance my work as a board member with my campaign for the House of Representatives. I believe the continuity of leadership I will provide as a member of the Board of Education will be helpful, given the extraordinary challenges currently facing the school district."

Wadsworth consulted with Northville Superintendent Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski throughout her decision-making process to assure him that her duties and commitment to the school district will remain a top priority as she maps out her House of Representatives campaign in the coming months.

"As a member of the Board of Education for 16 years, Joan has been a tireless and thoughtful advocate for Northville school children and families," Dr. Rezmierski said. "I have every confidence that she will continue to play an active role as the Board of Education and district leaders work to make some very difficult decisions about how to manage the school district, in the best interest of our students, during these very challenging budgetary times."

Last elected in 2008, Wadsworth is currently in her fifth term on the Northville Board of Education. She is vice president of the board and over the past 16 years has served 14 terms as a board officer. Wadsworth is a member of the Northville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and a volunteer for the Kids Against Hunger and Bridgepointe non-profit organizations. She received the Novi-Northville Optimist Club Exemplary Achievement Award in 2007 and was named Northville's Citizen of the Year in 2003.

Throughout her 24 years in Northville, Wadsworth has been involved in a variety of school and community organizations. She was the school board representative on the City of Northville Downtown Development Authority for five years; a member of Mothers' Club of Northville between 1992-2008; chair of the City of Northville Downtown Steering Committee from 2004-05; a member of the City of Northville Downtown Design Committee in 2006; past member of the Northville Parks and Recreation Commission; former president and board member for the Friends of Northville District Library; and past member of the Northville Senior Citizens Council. She also served on the Northville Public Schools Bond Campaign Committees in 1996, 1997, 2001, 2004 and 2006, and as a member of Northville High School's North Central Accreditation Committee.

Wadsworth is married to Steve Calkins, and they have three grown children, who all graduated from Northville Public Schools.

"These are certainly challenging times for Michigan and I believe I could make positive contributions on behalf of our state as a member of the House of Representatives based on my experience in education and public service and my ability to work in partnership with others to find solutions," Wadsworth said. "I would bring to Lansing a deep understanding and commitment to public education — a key piece of the puzzle as the state strives to create jobs and revive its economy.

"Over the years, I have had the honor to learn from my friends and colleagues in the Northville school community how to create and support one of the best systems of public education in the state. Every child in Michigan deserves the same opportunity our students have in Northville."

If her bid for the Michigan House of Representatives is successful in November, Wadsworth said she will resign from her remaining two years on the Northville Board of Education. In the case of such a resignation, the board's by-laws require the remaining Board of Education members to appoint a legally qualified individual to fill the vacancy within 20 days of being notified of the resignation. The appointee would hold the office until the next regular school election.