

CLINTON TOWNSHIP

# CVS board members look ahead after election

C AND G NEWSPAPERS

By Thomas Franz✉

🕒 Posted November 18, 2016



Frank Bednard



Elizabeth Pyden



Jill DeMuyck Zech

CLINTON TOWNSHIP — Three incumbents retained their seats on the Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education in the Nov. 8 general election.

Elizabeth Pyden, Frank Bednard and Jill DeMuyck Zech each earned another six-year term while edging out newcomer Robert Wojtowicz.

Pyden earned the most votes with 20,747, while Bednard and DeMuyck Zech each received 18,311 votes. Wojtowicz finished with 17,431 votes.

"I love being on the school board. I never really imagined I would enjoy it so much," said Pyden, who will be in her first full term as a board member after beginning in 2012. "When I got into it initially, I really appreciated the work school boards do."

The common theme among the three re-elected members is to finish the work they've started. A major piece of the work ahead for the board is possibly presenting voters in the district with a decision to raise taxes by a half mill next year to fund \$90 million of improvements.

"I want to see Chippewa Valley continue to move forward. I'm excited about the changes that have been made to the curriculum and some of the ideas that have been batted around," Pyden said. "I would definitely like to be a part of those."

Bednard began as a board member in 2000, and will be serving his fourth term. He said that after seeing the district go through its ups and downs in that time, he hopes to be a part of its next evolution.

"I've been on the board long enough to where I first got on, things were going really well, we were growing. Now we're in another phase where we've stopped growing, but we're trying to maintain and improve still with our limited resources," he said.

Bednard said he would like to continue to try to work with state legislators on revamping school funding, as the Chippewa Valley district is in a group of many other districts that receive the lowest amount of funding per pupil statewide.

"I'd like to see some change in that while I'm on the board, to create a more even playing field so we have the same resources to teach our children," Bednard said. "We do more with less."

DeMuyneck Zech will be serving her second term on the board. She said that being respectful of taxpayers as it relates to the bond proposal is key moving forward.

"At the same time, we have to ensure our curriculum and our technology in the classrooms is up to date, and that it serves our students and maintains the well-deserved reputation that Chippewa has in education," DeMuyneck Zech said.

Bednard is the president of the board, while Pyden serves as vice president and DeMuyneck Zech serves as treasurer.

Pyden is a 1988 graduate of Chippewa Valley High School. DeMuyneck Zech has a son who attends a school in the district. Bednard has two children who graduated from the district.

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

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