



**Joan Wadsworth to step down from Northville Board of Education;
candidates sought to fill open 11-month term**

Long time Northville Board of Education member Joan Wadsworth will step down from the post she has held for more than 18 years at the end of January to relocate to Dublin, Ireland, with her husband, Stephen Calkins, who has accepted a two-and-half-year appointment with the Irish Competition Authority.

Wadsworth made the official announcement of her intention to resign from the Board of Education at the Board's December 13, 2011 meeting. Elected to her fifth term on the Board in 2008, Wadsworth's current term expires at the end of 2012.

"While I am excited by this new opportunity for my family, I am saddened that I will not be able to complete my current term on the Board of Education," Wadsworth said. "However, as I leave, I am heartened that despite these challenging economic times, Northville Public Schools is on a positive path focused on providing the best education possible for Northville's school children. Over the years, I have had the honor of working with my friends and colleagues in the Northville school community to create and support one of the finest systems of public education in the state."

Wadsworth will remain on the Board until a replacement is named, to ensure a smooth transition. In the case of such resignations, the Board's by-laws require the remaining Board of Education members to appoint a legally qualified individual to fill the vacancy. The appointee will serve on the Board through December 31, 2012, and may choose to run for election to the open four-year term beginning January 2013 in the next regular school election in November 2012.

Northville school district community members interested in serving the 11-month term are asked to complete the Board of Education Appointment Application, which can be found on the district's website www.northville.k12.mi.us. The deadline for applications is January 6, 2012. The Board of Education will interview candidates at a public meeting to be scheduled between January 10 and January 19, 2012, with final approval by the Board anticipated at the Board of Education's regular meeting on January 24, 2012. The specific date, time and location for candidate interviews will be announced as soon as the information is available.

"A member of the Board of Education for nearly two decades, Joan has been a tireless and thoughtful advocate for Northville school children and families," said Northville Superintendent Mary Kay Gallagher. "We have all learned from and with Joan over these many years and know that Northville Public Schools is better as a result of her service."

"It is with great gratitude for so many years of dedicated service that we wish Joan and Steve well on this new adventure," said Board of Education Vice President Dottie Garrity. "As a member of the Board of Education, and a passionate community volunteer, Joan has had a tremendously positive impact on the children, families, teachers and staff of Northville Public Schools."

"We welcome applications from Northville school district residents interested in serving on the Northville Board of Education and look forward, as a Board, to working in partnership with district leaders, school families, staff and community members to serve the educational needs of all our students."

First elected to the Northville Board of Education in 1993, Wadsworth is currently serving as president. During her tenure on the Board, Wadsworth has served 16 terms as an officer. In addition, throughout her 26 years in Northville, Wadsworth has been involved in a variety of school and community organizations.

The Associate Vice President for Academic Personnel and a Professor of Law at Wayne State University, Calkins is on a two-and-a-half-year leave of absence from the university while he works with the Irish Competition Authority (similar to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission). Wadsworth and Calkins plan to return to Northville once Calkins' work in Ireland is completed. The couple has three grown children, who all graduated from Northville Public Schools.

At the December 13 meeting, the Board of Education also honored outgoing Board members Marilyn Price and Libby Smith, who are each completing more than eight years of dedicated service on the school board. They are being succeeded by Anita Bartschat and Scott Craig, who were elected to the Board in November and will begin their four-year terms of service in January.

"I want to take this opportunity to express on behalf of the entire Northville school community our heartfelt thanks to Marilyn and Libby for their wisdom, compassion and ongoing dedication to Northville's young people over these past eight years," Gallagher said. "We wish both of them well in whatever the future holds, and know that they will continue to be strong advocates for our schools and our community."