

School Board Vote Is Again 4-3

Fanshaw to Head Palmyra-Eagle



Lance Fanshaw

By Sandra Duerr
Freeman Staff

PALMYRA — Twice last summer elementary school principal Lance Fanshaw missed getting the superintendent's job by one vote.

But Thursday night, that one vote swung in his favor. The Palmyra-Eagle School Board opted, 4 to 3, to hire the 36-year-old as its superintendent for the next 18 months.

He will continue to earn the \$22,000 annual salary he was getting as principal for this year. The board did not set the salary for the 77-78 school year.

As Donald Burton, one of the three board members opposed to Fanshaw, said: "If he (Fanshaw) doesn't do a good job, we can cut him down (the salary) to \$16,000, can't we, and he can take a hint?"

Besides Burton, board members

opposing Fanshaw were Jean Gerber and Robert Oleson.

Those supporting Fanshaw were Board President Gordon Marty, Elmer Killian, Joseph Nuspl and Richard Sauter.

Nuspl is the one who changed his mind.

Last summer, when the board twice selected a man for the job of superintendent, Nuspl voted against Fanshaw.

The first man, Elliot Moser of Oshkosh, rejected the board's offer. The second, L. Eugene Wilson, accepted it, but resigned as of the first of this month, citing personal reasons.

Why the change of mind?

"Lance has had experience . . . and has done an excellent job in the position he has now," Nuspl said.

Nuspl's brother, John of Sheridan, Wyo., was one of the applicants for the superintendent's job. He wasn't chosen for that one, but last Sunday was offered the job of the elementary school principal — the one that Fanshaw had. Nuspl (John) rejected it, saying he already had that kind of a job — as principal of an elementary school in the Sheridan School District.

Board member Nuspl said he didn't join in the superintendent selection process this time until his brother had been eliminated as a possibility.

Fanshaw came to the then independent Eagle Elementary School in 1965, was its principal when it was merged with Palmyra in 1971. He has since become principal of the Palmyra Grade School as well.

He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in education from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, and lives in Eagle Town

with his wife and children aged 2 and 5.

For the moment, Fanshaw will wear two hats — that of principal, as well as superintendent.

He said he hopes to establish a committee of teachers, board members and citizens by early next week to screen candidates for the elementary school principal's job.