

Independent Trust Will Be Set Up To Help Pay for School Programs

by *Bill Latimer*

A board of directors will be elected for a new Harvard Schools Trust at the PTA general meeting on October 23, School Committee member Worth Robbins announced at his board's September 25 meeting. The Trust will be an independent nonprofit organization formed to secure and distribute contributions from individuals, corporate sponsors, and foundations for the benefit of the Harvard schools. The Trust will be a "private enterprise working in close conjunction with the School Committee, town government, and teacher organizations," said Robbins.

The Trust is being created to help fund Harvard's schools at a time when "pressure on public funding at federal, state, and local levels is jeopardizing existing educational programs, and has all but eliminated discussion of program enrichment," according to a Trust brochure distributed at the schools' open house. Revenue will be raised through tax-deductible dues and contributions, matching gifts from corporations, foundation

grants, estate bequests, net proceeds from fundraising events, and earnings from the Trust's invested capital. Individuals will be able to become members; annual dues of \$25 will be proposed at the October formation meeting. The Trust plans to honor specific requests by contributors as to how their donations are used by the schools, "as long as such requests are deemed to be harmonious with school policies and goals," the brochure says.

A five-member "core group" has been planning the creation of the Trust. Group members Carole Christensen, Carol Fuller, George Herbolsheimer, Worth Robbins, and Bill Thurston will nominate residents to serve on a board of directors at the formation meeting next month. The not-more-than-fifteen-member board will manage the Trust; some directors will serve as the Trust's executive officers. The core group is searching for residents who want to serve as directors or executive officers. Interested parties are urged to call one of the five organizers or to write to the Harvard Schools Trust, P. O. Box 450 in Harvard.