

USD 415 board member resigns in protest

(KNZA)--A Hiawatha School Board member, in the final month of his 20 years on the board, resigned Monday evening in protest to a decision by another board member to remove her children from Hiawatha schools and enroll them in a private school in another community.

John Wright said he had talked to Board member Andrea Groth personally about her decision prior the meeting and urged her to resign.

He said he had lost confidence in Groth to serve the district as a school board member and he felt her actions had given the school district a black eye.

Wright challenged Groth to resign and when she indicated she wouldn't, offered his resignation in protest in her place.

Board President Tom Simmer encouraged Wright to reconsider, and finish out the remaining month of his term.

Wright said he was not comfortable sitting on the board with Groth and left the meeting.

The action came after Superintendent Lonnie Moser recognized Wright, Groth and board member Keith Erdley for their service on the board.

Wright and Erdley did not seek re-election. Groth was defeated in the November general election by Jacquie Kerl.

Roni Tietijens was elected last month to replace Wright and Jim Robidoux was elected to replace Erdley.

The three newly elected members will take their seats on the board next month.