

Franscioni enjoys giving back

Helping to shape district curriculum is one of her leading priorities

By **JANICE AUSTIN**
For The Salinas Californian

With one four-year term behind her, Wendy Franscioni is about to begin a new one on the Gonzales Union School District Board of Trustees.

She said she's ready for more. "The overall experience is enjoyable," said Franscioni, who has served as board president. "The ability to work within a community is satisfying. I like knowing that I'm giving back a little bit."

'I think we have an interesting future cut out for us.'

— **Wendy Franscioni**,
Gonzales Union School board

She said she sees financial analysis as one of her biggest strengths, and finances as the district's biggest current challenge.

"That's basically why I do it," Franscioni said, "because I feel I can make a contribution. Seeing a way that I can help somebody is what inspires me."

Helping shape a district curriculum that carries students smoothly from one grade level to the next is another district priority, she said.

"We need this so that a student in fifth grade going into middle school will understand what will be expected of him based on his experience in elementary school," Franscioni said.

Looking ahead, she said she sees a lot of growth in store for Gonzales.

"I think we have an interesting future cut out for us," Franscioni said. "The city is planning some fairly large growth. Planning is going to be critical for the school district. One of our goals needs to be making sure that our schools are of such a quality



SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Wendy Franscioni, president of the Gonzales Union School Board, is pictured in her Gonzales home.

WENDY FRANSCIONI

n **AGE:** 54

n **POSITION:** Gonzales Union School District board member.

n **JOB:** Chief lending office with California Coastal Rural Development Corp. in Salinas.

n **EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree in psychology, University of California, Long Beach.

n **EXPERIENCE:** 28-year banking and finance career; helped found and lead district's parent-teacher group; leadership roles with several nonprofit boards

n **PERSONAL:** Lives in Gonzales with her husband, Michael Franscioni.

that we have the parents wanting to send their children there."

Her "day job" is that of chief lending officer with California Coastal Rural Development Corporation, a nonprofit business lender in Salinas that provides business loans to small businesses.

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