

Schoolcraft girds for budget cuts

By TIM RICHARD
Gov. William G. Milliken's veto of the community college funding bill has Schoolcraft College officials wondering whether—and how much—they will have to cut the 1978-9 budget.

Milliken vetoed the \$120 million bill Saturday, not because it was several millions larger than he had recommended, but because the Michigan Legislature attempted to earmark some of the money for certain uses.

The bill had earmarked funds for remedial education, student counseling and equipment.

The governor, who began his own political career as a trustee of a community college in Traverse City, contended the lawmakers' action "has the potential of restricting local autonomy and could prove detrimental to efficient and effective delivery of

educational services." One of the bill's co-sponsors, Sen. Charles Zollar (R-Benton Harbor), said the bill was designed as an incentive to community colleges to improve in those necessary areas.

THE LEGISLATURE will meet early in September, after the Aug. 8 primary election, to decide whether to override Milliken's veto.

"The legislative leadership doesn't feel it can override the veto," Schoolcraft President C. Nelson Grote told the board July 26.

Grote said a bill enacted in September might provide less money than the one passed in July.

"There has been much discussion of tax limitation, the Tish amendment and others. This will be on the minds of everybody. The governor is talking

of reducing the appropriation \$3 million. That would be a substantial jolt to this institution."

Assuming cuts were made across the board to all 29 community colleges, a \$3 million state aid cut would mean a 2.5 per cent loss for everyone.

In Schoolcraft's case, it would mean a cut of something like \$100,000. The funding bill which Milliken vetoed would have given Schoolcraft \$3.5 million.

AS IT WAS, the bill gave Schoolcraft some \$200,000 less than the local budget committee had earlier estimated.

So the board proceeded to make up the difference by finding \$111,000 in a carryover from the previous year's budget and making cuts of \$95,000.

The cuts will be made by rationing some jobs a few months, dipping into a contingency fund and cutting the special maintenance and equipment budget.

The maintenance budget was cut from a total of \$175,000 to \$125,000 by not building a salt storage structure, not building a walk-drive at the child day care center, not resurfacing some parking lots and not putting aluminum siding on the women's Resource Center.

CUTTING MAINTENANCE made trustees particularly unhappy. As buildings have aged, the board has sought to spend \$30,000 a year on the physical plant.

"I see a slow deterioration of the campus, particularly the parking lots," said Trustee Mark McQuesten.

"I don't see a deterioration," Grote answered, "but the fund is down by one-half." The president said he recommended the cuts for this reason:

"We did not reduce any faculty, library, or counseling. We protected the integrity of the institution. We did not seek a tuition or fee increase."

Treasurer Harry Greenleaf said he shared McQuesten's concern. He asked the administration to make an inventory of major repairs that may be needed—not only paving but boilers and air conditioners—and consider a millage question.

Trustees searching for new member

The remaining seven members of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees will interview as many as five candidates Aug. 9 as they seek to replace Vice-Chairman Ron Cowden, whose resignation took effect Aug. 1.

"I'm pleased at the publicity and interest," said Treasurer Harry Greenleaf, who proposed the questionnaire and interviewing process for making the appointment. "We have new faces that are not familiar to us."

Two new persons entered their applications when the board met July 26. They are Robert E. Thompson, a Livonia attorney and chairman of the college's small business advisory committee, and Tom Moore, a Northville resident who once taught evening classes at the two-year college.

Others who entered earlier are G.J. (Jack) Bologna, Plymouth management consultant; Richard Hayward, structural steel company executive from Livonia; and James McKeon, real estate man and former City of Plymouth mayor.

TRUSTEES MARK McQuesten and Rosina Raymond argued against the interviewing process.

McQuesten said candidates should contact board members during "non-board meeting hours. Individuals who are interested should take the initiative."

Mrs. Raymond cited the Livonia

City Council, which she said was using an informal political procedure in filling a vacancy. "Whoever gets four votes gets the seat. That's the reality."

In reply, Nancie Blatt said, "The 'call me and I'll talk to you' attitude kind of smacks of secrecy." In a group interview situation, she added, "other board members ask questions I hadn't thought of."

Mrs. Blatt and Chairman Paul Kadish cited "the spirit of the Open Meetings Act" for preferring public interviews with candidates.

"I'M NOT going to deny I've got a favorite candidate," said Kadish—and there he put his finger on the heart of the problem.

Kadish, Mrs. Blatt, Mrs. Raymond and McQuesten have said privately they prefer Bologna, who ran a strong race in June and comes from the under-represented western sector of the Schoolcraft College District.

MOT will hold new auditions

Michigan Opera Theatre will have auditions for dancers to perform in the first two productions of its 1978-79 season: Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers" and Kern and Hammerstein's "Show Boat."

The auditions will be in the form of a dance class at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 5, on stage at the Music Hall. Dominic Missimi, director of "The Pearl Fishers" will conduct the auditions.

"We are particularly interested in people who have a strong background in classical and modern dance," he said. "Some knowledge of primitive dance would be especially helpful."

MOT's production of "The Pearl Fishers" will be choreographed by noted dancer-choreographer Annie Marie Schary, a featured performer with several modern dance companies and Broadway experience with Peter Gensaro and Jerome Robbins.

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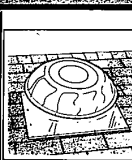
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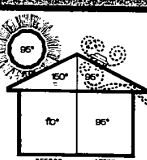


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