

College trustee defeated in cliffhanger election

By TIM RICHARD

One Schoolcraft College trustee and two millage requests were defeated by voters Monday in an election that featured two cliffhangers that may not be decided until today's official canvass.

Preliminary results showed trustee Nancie Blatt re-elected to a six-year term with a 1,000-vote margin over her nearest rival, Michael W. Burley, a Northville school administrator who lives in Canton Township, won the second six-year term by a scant 101 votes over Livonia attorney Robert Ficano.

Trailing another 141 votes behind Ficano was Dr. Gerald Cox, a Detroit teacher who lives in Garden City, and who ends six years on the board.

Elected to a two-year term was incumbent (by appointment) Richard Hayward, a Livonia industrialist. His margin of victory over Thomas S. Moore of Northville was 18 votes out of more than 8,000 cast.

Because the Northville School District voted on paper ballots, which are subject to tabulating errors more than voting machines, a recount appeared inevitable.

Odds against kids in the legal system

(Continued from page 1A) to avoid self-incrimination. But they haven't the right for a trial by their peers.

Although the children can obtain their own lawyer to help them through the juvenile justice system, the legal system doesn't spend time teaching school students to deal with young clients, according to Ms. Lombard and Overstreet.

"The justice system isn't geared to kids," said Ms. Lombard. "It tends not to focus on kids."

There is a conflict for the lawyer in dealing with children. If an adult client wants something that's impossible to obtain or which could injure him, the lawyer can explain the situation.

With a child client, there is the problem of communication, compounded with the fact that children don't always realize what is best for them.

They may love daddy one week because he looks them to the circus or bought them a new toy, Ms. Lombard says.

"Do you mouth what the kid wants?" she said of the lawyer's dilemma.

"No key elements in legal training sets them up to be an advocate with children," said Overstreet.

"An attorney tends to be adult oriented. Attorneys tend to be system oriented.

"NOT MANY practicing attorneys specialize in these (children's) issues. There's not a great deal of money in children's issues."

If an attorney had an adult client who was shuttled from prison to prison, he could go to court to stop such treatment.

to reveal what he would recommend following the defeat. The state has appropriated some \$813,000 and the college has \$500,000 from an earlier bond issue toward the \$2.3 million project.

Grote said the solution would not be as simple as paring off the \$1 million the new millage would have brought in. Reason: The state funds are matching money for a specific plan. With Schoolcraft unable to put up its matching share, the college would have to renegotiate funding with the state as well as redesign the project.

Other alternatives are to ask voters to approve a \$1 million bond issue and to return the state funds and forget about the project.

THE RACE between Burley and Ficano for the second long-term seat had partisan overtones, like many past Schoolcraft races.

Burley, though he has no history of partisan activity, was escorted around the district by three Republican legislators — State Sen. Robert Geake (a former Schoolcraft board chairman) of Northville, Rep. Jack Kirksey of Livonia (a felo-

low educator) and Rep.

Robert Law of Livonia. Ficano is an active member of the Democratic organization in Livonia and drew much support from party ranks. Ficano outpolled Burley in Livonia and Northville while Burley outran Ficano in Clarenceville, Garden City and Plymouth-Canton.

Cox apparently failed to mount a major campaign offensive compared to the younger newcomers, though he led in his home of Garden City.

The new board, which takes office early in July, will have five members from Livonia (Mrs. Blatt, Hayward, Harry Greenleaf, Rosina Raymond and Leonard Wozniak), two from Plymouth-Canton (Burley and Mark McQuesten), and none from Northville, Clarenceville and Garden City.

With Chairman Paul Kadish retiring and the board being reduced from eight members to seven, it will also have a lineup of four persons with Republican leanings and three with Democratic. Likely choice for chairman: Greenleaf.

MOORE'S STRONG showing surprised both him and Hayward, who was making his third try in the last three elections for the board.

Moore, a Ford Motor Co. engineer who last week earned a master's degree in business from Michigan State University, was making his first bid for elective office. He had applied for the appointment which went to Hayward 10 months ago. He said he spent only \$220 on the race, relying on help from friends.

Hayward, if the canvass shows him to be the winner, will finish two years in the term to which former Livonian Ron Cowden was elected. Cowden left to become principal of Manistee (Mich.) High School.

Few issues were raised in the campaign. Ficano questioned the board's wisdom in placing the culinary arts millage on the ballot, but later swung around to support it.

THE MILLAGE defeats were the fifth since 1971 for Schoolcraft. Significantly, they were considered rock-bottom requests by the board since they were for only a one-year period and involved only one new project.

The historical pattern is that, when a K-12 district has a money request on the ballot, voters will give stronger support to it than to a community college millage. In Monday's elections, Garden City and Plymouth had money issues on the ballot, but Clarenceville, Livonia and Northville did not.



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