

OCC board again will try to fill vacated trustee seat

Oakland Community College trustees have voted to fill a vacant board seat by Sept. 18. The board unanimously agreed to the deadline last week after a move to appoint former Trustee Gordon Henderson of Birmingham was defeated. The board must fill a vacancy created when former board chairman Lila Johnson, of Huntington Woods, resigned July 11. Mrs. Johnson had been at odds with college President Robert Roelofs over the board's control and policy-making role.

TRUSTEES spent more than an hour Thursday discussing how it should seek candidates for the vacancy.

Trustee Suzanne K. Reynolds nominated Henderson, who did not seek re-election June 9. But the former trustee failed to receive the required four votes to be appointed. Mrs. Reynolds, Trustee David W. Hackett of Rochester and board Chairman Earl M. Anderson voted for Henderson.

Trustee Sandra Ritter voted no and Richard J. Pappas, of Troy, abstained. Newly-elected Trustee Margaret MacTavish, of Birmingham, was absent due to illness.

Mrs. Ritter said her vote was not against Henderson, but against the way the board was filling the vacancy. "I don't like coming out of the closet and saying, 'Gordon's the guy we want,'" she said.

"I GET this feeling that we're playing a little politics here," said Anderson. He said the board should pick a new trustee from among the seven candidates who lost the June election. The group includes former Trustee Barbara Willing, of Madison Heights, who was also often at odds with President Roelofs.

Ms. Willing, who lost her re-election bid by 517 votes, was not nominated last week.

Newly elected trustee Pappas said the board shouldn't restrict itself to the unsuccessful June

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— Earl Anderson, OCC board chairman

candidates. His proposal that the board advertise for candidates was defeated, however.

"I don't have anyone in mind, period," said Pappas.

The new trustee may be selected at a special meeting of the board Thursday, Sept. 4.

IN OTHER BUSINESS, the trustees approved, 4-1, a policy change allowing the college administration to make purchases of less than \$10,000 without board approval. The previous limitation was purchases of less than \$5,000.

"I want my chance to say no," said Hackett, the lone trustee against the change. "I don't really see why it should be increased," he said. "I don't see that it's inconvenient."

Other trustees, however, noted that the purchases are approved when the board adopts the college's annual budget.

"This doesn't make me uncomfortable at all," said Mrs. Ritter. "I just think we've already done it and this is just a technically."

Roelofs said he proposed the change because "we've found that we were bringing a great number of routine purchases (to the board) that were of minor consequence to the budget."

He said the \$10,000 figure was selected due to inflationary factors on prices and policy at other colleges.

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