

Stempien Asks To Join Schoolcraft Trustee Case

The Schoolcraft College reapportionment issue will be argued in a legislative hearing Thursday and in Wayne Circuit Court Friday.

These were the latest developments:

*The Senate Education Committee has scheduled a public hearing in Lansing Thursday at 9:30 a.m. in a bill to elect community college trustees at-large.

*State Rep. Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia) will go to court Friday to intervene as a plaintiff in the Schoolcraft case and to try to have the board removed from office—a request that would block the board from supporting at-large trustee elections.

Stempien, author of a bill to elect trustees from single-member districts, is scheduled to appear before Circuit Judge Roland Olzak at 2 p.m.

Stempien said he is asking to intervene because his interests as a resident and taxpayer are not being represented by the current board.

CHARGING that the board is illegally constituted, Stempien asked that the court remove the board and appoint a receiver until "a legally selected new board of trustees is qualified for office."

Stempien's motion would have the effect of preventing the Schoolcraft trustees from presenting the at-large election plan they approved last week.

Stempien, on the other hand, wants to split the college district into seven sub-districts of equal population, a plan vigorously opposed by college leaders.

The board had been ordered by Judge Olzak to submit a plan to the court by June 1 which would provide a trustee election method in keeping with the "one-man, one-vote" concept. Currently three trustees are elected at-large and five are elected from the five K-12 school districts composing the college districts.

The method is considered unconstitutional now because the school districts are of unequal populations.

THE SCHOOLCRAFT board approved an at-large election plan because of the difficulty of drawing up equal population districts before June 1 when census information on the school districts is not immediately available.

A bill was introduced in the State Senate by Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) and cosponsored by Sen. William Rust (D-Westland) that would provide for an at-large election.

Pursell's bill will be discussed Thursday by the Senate Education Committee, whose chairman is Sen. Gilbert Bursley (R-Plymouth). Cosponsor Rust is a member of that committee.

Stempien filed his court motion only a day after a House committee held a hearing on his sub-district bill but failed to report it to the House floor. But Rep. Daisy Elliott (D-Detroit) said she expected her House Colleges and Universities Committee to report it out this week.

Just how the board of trustees is elected is of vital concern not only to myself but to all residents and taxpayers in the Schoolcraft District because they levy and spend tax dollars," Stempien said.

"In my case, I feel that my interests are not being represented by the existing parties in the case pending in Circuit Court. For this reason, I am asking the court to add me as a plaintiff in the case."

THE ORIGINAL plaintiffs are Chairman Neil de Stigter and the New Democratic Coalition of Livonia, who filed the suit to force reapportionment of the district.

"We're grateful for anything Mr. Stempien might do to get a democratically elected and representative board," de Stigter said. "It is delightful that so many who have known about this for so long have suddenly taken an interest."

He added that "The merits of his position have to be investigated."

Stempien's bill is also supported by Aldo Vagnozzi, chairman of the 19th Congressional District Democratic Committee and a member of the Board of Education in Farmington.

Vagnozzi said that Oakland Community College district would gain from district trustee elections because campaign expenses would be cut, allowing candidates from minority groups or those with lower campaign funds to run.

OC's college district is much more complex than Schoolcraft's because its three campuses take in rural areas as well as the City of Farmington and higher income areas such as Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills.

SEN. PURSELL's bill also has support from the State Board of Education and a subordinate board on community colleges.

Pursell stressed his bill is a bi-partisan effort and he expects a companion bill to be introduced in the House.

Referring to Stempien's court motion, Pursell said, "It is difficult to fully understand an attorney's approach to argue on the one hand that it is purely a legislative matter and then to turn around again on the other hand and go into court to resolve the matter."

"Two previous court decisions (Judge Olzak's action and the U.S. Supreme Court action) indicate to me very clearly the present board can serve legally and the legislature can enact appropriate laws to reconstruct a new policy to conform to the 'one-man, one-vote' principle."

He will officially leave the presidency on June 30, though he announced to the board of trustees that he will take his earned vacation beginning May 24.

Incoming president C. Nelson Grote will be on campus working with Dr. Bradner between May 11 and 23 and will assume office May 24.

DR. BRADNER has been with Schoolcraft College since its inception 10 years ago.

He presented a number of Resolutions from the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives, Sens. Philip Hart and Robert Griffin, Gov. William Milliken, and representatives of the teaching profession will be given.

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Schoolcraft Names Its Library For Dr. Bradner

Tributes to Dr. Eric J. Bradner, retiring president of Schoolcraft College, are growing and include a recent board decision to name the college's library after him.

The current and future library buildings will be named the "Eric J. Bradner Library" and an "Eric J. Bradner Scholarship Fund" was established in his honor.

The college's trustees allocated an initial \$1,000 for the scholarship fund which will be perpetuated on an annual basis.

DR. BRADNER will also be presented a resolution of commendation from the board at a dinner in his honor on Saturday.

Charles Castillo, a long-time friend of Dr. Bradner's and a speech instructor at the college, will be the master of ceremonies at the dinner which will be held in Waterman Center.

Approximately 350 guests are expected to be present when Dr. Bradner will be

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AREA DEATHS

OTIS ROWE, Services for Mr. Rowe, 98, former Plymouth resident, who moved to Florida upon retirement, were held in Miami Shores following his death April 20.

A veteran of the Spanish American War, Mr. Rowe spent many years as a school teacher and farmer in the Plymouth area. He returned for frequent visits after moving to Florida.

He is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Margaret and Emma, all of Miami; two sons, Milton and Henry, both of Plymouth; nine grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

GEORGE H.J. FLATT—Funeral services for Mr. Flatt, 52, of Novi, were held recently at the Healey-Burke Funeral Home in Farmington with burial in North Farmington Cemetery. Officiating was the Rev. George W. Ramsey of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington.

Mr. Flatt, who died April 24 in Botsford General Hospital after a two-year illness, had lived in Novi four years and was a mechanic with International Hardware Co. He had enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1935 and was captured in the Daphe, France, raid in 1942 and held as a prisoner of war by the Germans for three years before being rescued by the British. He was a member of Post Beaver 116 of the Canadian Legion and past commander, National Prisoners of War Association, and junior auxiliary member of Canadian Legion Post 84. Survivors include wife, Rena; mother, Mrs. Rose Flatt; daughter, Loudene; and brother, Arthur.

MARION LLOYD TINNEY, Services for Mr. Tinney, 53, of 14608 Susanna, Livonia, were held in Casselton Funeral Home in Northville. Rev. Elmer Johnson of the Casselton Methodist Church officiated and burial was in Parkview Cemetery, Livonia.

Mr. Tinney died April 28 in St. Mary's.

Hospital. He was employed at Western Electric in Plymouth.

He is survived by eight children, Mrs. Ellen Schenken, Mrs. Pamela Boyd, Nancy, Susan, Marion, David, Warren, and Michael; one sister, Mrs. Frances L. Buck; one brother, Jean W. Tinney of Livonia; and six grandchildren.

HARRY HUGEL, Services for Mr. Hugel, 78, of 1017 Loc Palmarosa, Phoenix, Ariz., were April 29 in the Cedarline Funeral Home in Northville. Rev. Cedric Whitcomb of the First Baptist Church of Northville officiated and burial was in Livonia.

Mr. Hugel was a former resident of the Livonia and Plymouth area. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Sophie Hugel of South Lyon; two daughters, Mrs. Lillian Andziska and Mrs. Dorothy Patrick, both of Phoenix; two sisters, Mrs. Lena Monis of Sun City, Ariz., and Mrs. Sophie Sargi of Farmington; one brother, Albert Hugel of Plymouth; and two grandchildren.

MONIKA C. PARYSEK—Services for Miss Parysek, 10, of 9222 McBurn, Livonia, were held in the R.G. and G.R. Funeral Home with the Rev. Edward Reinhardt officiating. Burial was in Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery.

She died April 28 in Ford Hospital. Survivors include her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Parysek; a sister, Christine; and grandchildren, Mrs. Mary Parysek and Mrs. Meta Eames.

WILFRED W. DODGE, Services for Mr. Dodge, 57, of 40250 Schoolcraft, who died May 1 in St. Mary Hospital, were held Wednesday in the Schaefer Funeral Home with Rev. Henry J. Welch officiating. Mr. Dodge is survived by his wife, Eleanor, and his mother, Mrs. Ethel Dodge, of Plymouth. He was formerly employed as a job setter at the Ford Motor Co. and burial was in Washington Cemetery, Tontogany, Ohio.

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