

Court order ties up OCC faction

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Call them the Frustrated Faction.

Five Oakland Community College trustees who want to fire the chancellor and replace the board chair were thwarted again Monday, this time by a court order.

"You are unable to remove me during the (Open Meetings Act) lawsuit," said board chair Janice Simmons as she turned down a motion to amend the bylaws limiting her term in office.

Simmons at 4 p.m. Monday — two hours prior to the meeting — obtained a temporary restraining order from Oakland Circuit Judge Steven Andrews against trustees Sandra Ritter, apparent leader of the Frustrated Faction, and Judith Wiser, board vice chair.

Simmons is represented by Pontiac attorney Elbert Hatchett.

A process server dropped the legal papers on Ritter's lap during Monday's OCC board meeting in the central office in Bloomfield Hills. Ritter let it fall to the floor unopened and left the meeting without picking it up. Wiser was absent.

A hearing is scheduled in circuit court Thursday, Oct. 5, on whether to make the order a permanent injunction.

Simmons has been joined by trustee Anne Scott in efforts to keep the Frustrated Faction from firing Chancellor Patsy Calkins, one of the most popular leaders in OCC history because of her leadership in a millage campaign.

Scott is chief plaintiff in the Open Meetings Act suit, pending before Oakland Circuit Judge Jeanne Cooper. It charges the other faction with violating the act by deliberating secretly prior to delivering an ultimatum to her that she quit or be fired.

The five defendants in that suit, besides Ritter and Wiser, are trustees Pamela Davis, Douglas Wakefield and Carol Crew.

"Two people are trying to control five board members," Wakefield said Monday night. Davis, angered at being unable to act on the proposed rules change, got up and left the meeting, which was adjourned a minute later.

Calkins, though suffering from a bad cold, issued a detailed reply to Ritter's week-long charge that

she kept the board uninformed about an Internal Revenue Service audit.

"Wait until we have the audit complete," the chancellor said. "We have no control over auditors. They don't tell us when they're coming; they just show up."

Calkins said the dispute with IRS is over taxes due on "contract" workers, particularly in the Business & Professional Institute. The federal tax collector wants them treated as employees rather than independent contractors.

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Replied Ritter: "The issue is not the audit but not being told. The board is hired by the community, and the community expects us to know everything about the college."

The board is due to meet at 6 this evening to interview candidates for a construction manager. Five candidates are seeking the job of handling renovation projects now that OCC has a property tax increase that will bring in \$35 million a year for seven years.

YMCA HIGHLIGHTS

These YMCA Highlights appear courtesy of the Farmington YMCA, 28100 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. For more information, call 553-4020.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Farmington Area YMCA is looking for qualified individuals to work in a variety of areas such as: child care, youth sports, courtesy desk attendants and aquatics. Contact the Y at 553-4020 for more information or come in and fill out an application.

KIDS' NIGHT OUT

The next Kids' Night Out is scheduled for 7:30-11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Y. The theme will be Hallowe'en Haunting for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. All children must be pre-registered. No registrations or money will be taken at the door. Bring a bathing suit and towel. Cost for members is \$5 and non-members \$10.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NIGHT

The next middle school night is scheduled for 7:30-11 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14. Cost for members is \$5 and non-members \$10.

WHO, WHAT, WHERE . . . ?

The first in a series of television shows that will begin airing Monday, Oct. 23, at 6 p.m. and every other Wednesday beginning Oct. 25 at 8 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE

The YMCA's Open House is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All area residents are welcome to tour the facility, learn about membership options and receive a free week of membership privileges. Call 553-4020 for more details.

COMMUNITY WEEK

During the week of Oct. 30 through Nov. 3, special introductory classes will be offered. Our reception center will process free registration. Watch mail for more information regarding this week long happening.

nity to work with BABES puppets and activity pages, engage in discussions and ask questions.

BABES, which stands for Begaining Alcohol And Addiction Basic Education Studies, has been presented to third-graders for 10 years.

BABES is a seven-week course that is taught in half-hour classes. During this time, trained volunteers present information on feelings, peer pressure, decision making, alcohol and drugs, getting help with problems, and sexual abuse.

The students have the opportunity to work with BABES puppets and activity pages, engage in discussions and ask questions.

A Farmington Realtor, Century 21 Hartford, in cooperation with the Farmington Police Department, will sponsor "Project Identification" from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30.

This free service includes a child's photo, fingerprint record and safety information. Call 478-6000 for reservations and additional information. Century 21 Hartford is in the Village Commons, 32726 Grand River.

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