

Board Votes 7-1

Schoolcraft Stays In SEMCOG

By KATHY MORAN

After listening to pleas from two Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) officials, the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees voted 7-1 to remain in the regional planning organization for a one-year probationary period.

Trustees had considered withdrawing their \$352 yearly membership because of a lack of tangible results affecting schools in the organization.

"I wouldn't sit here at this table and tell you we've gotten back by the dollar what we've paid into it," Joe Mayfield, Taylor school trustee and SEMCOG school bloc chairman, told trustees prior to the regular meeting.

"If you think you can't get your value from it, then shake it (SEMCOG) up a bit and fight for it on the inside," Mayfield said.

MAYFIELD AND SEMCOG staff coordinator Steven Weiss discussed the future of the school bloc in SEMCOG with trustees prior to the regular meeting.

When the meeting adjourned, trustee Mary Dunham, who led the initial opposition to renewing membership in SEMCOG, distributed a prepared motion and moved that membership be continued.

Only trustee Erv Brown voted against renewal. Brown had expressed disillusionment with SEMCOG at earlier discussions.

Mayfield told the trustees that just after he was elected to the Taylor school bloc, "the first thing I did was move out to pay SEMCOG dues (amounting to \$2,400)."

"I thought that SEMCOG was a good concept and was needed by other types of government, but I didn't think it was beneficial for the schools," he said.

AFTER HIS MOTION was defeated, Mayfield said he was appointed SEMCOG delegate and soon learned that it is "the most misunderstood organization I have ever been associated with."

He stressed that SEMCOG is not a metropolitan super government, but that the voluntary members retain local autonomy and utilize the organization for regional planning—an area needed by school districts.

It is the only organization where schools can meet with other governmental units. Admitting the weaknesses in the school bloc, he cautioned that if it dissolves it will mean a loss in communication.

"The school bloc has been rather weak in terms of accomplishing things—but it has been rather vocal," Mayfield said.

It can be more effective if the members "speak up and have the changes made from the inside rather than imposed from the outside," Mayfield stressed.

IN RECENT months Farmington, Livonia and Plymouth have withdrawn from SEMCOG leaving Schoolcraft as the only representative from the Observerland area still in it.

The drop in school membership could result in the school bloc losing its representative on the SEMCOG executive committee, Mayfield said.

Several school trustees told Mayfield and Weiss that recent statements made by SEMCOG Chairman Robert FitzPatrick were making local units feel they are being

coerced into joining or continuing in SEMCOG because non-membership means they could be overpowered by SEMCOG decisions.

"This is the boggy man that all your local governments have been afraid of all along," Mrs. Dumas said.

Mayfield agreed saying they are trying to clear up this misconception.

Discussion among trustees never hit on the tactic of a temporary pull-out to pressure SEMCOG into giving community colleges more power. This alternative was proposed by Mrs. Dumas at the January meeting.

But the motion to renew membership states that "representatives of the SEMCOG executive board and staff have given assurances

that the restructuring of SEMCOG and program direction will more adequately reflect the needs of community colleges and other school bloc members."



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Presidential Contenders Taped For SC Series

Prior to Michigan's presidential primary on May 16, Observerland's new and experienced voters can get an inside view of the presidential candidates through a videotape series at Schoolcraft College.

Tapes of interviews with eleven of the presidential candidates will be shown through closed-circuit television on five consecutive Tuesday evenings in the Waterman Campus Center.

The series is open to the public at no cost. Three

television sets will be set up on the second floor of the center to make viewing easy.

THE TAPES feature a panel of college students quizzing each of the candidates individually. The interviews with each candidate are an hour each, beginning at 7 p.m. March 7.

Since the tapes are closed-circuit, they have not been censored by the Federal Communications Commission or by the college. Thus, no subjects will be too controversial for discussion.

The first night of the series will be March 7 and feature Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kansas), chairman of the Republican National Committee, along with Larry O'Brien, chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Both will discuss the series and the coming elections.

INTERVIEWS with the candidates will begin March 14 with Rep. Paul McCloskey (R-Calif.) and Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.).

Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) and Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) will be on March 21.

The March 28 tape will feature Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) and Democratic New York Mayor John Lindsay.

Rep. Shirley Chisholm (D-New York) and former vice-president and presidential candidate Hubert Humphrey will talk on April 4.

Sen. George McGovern (D-S. Dak.) and Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty will be on April 11.

The series will conclude with an interview of Rep. Wilbur Mills (D-Ark.) on April 18.

INTERVIEWS WITH Republican candidates President Richard Nixon and Rep. John Ashbrook as well as Democratic candidate George Wallace, Alabama governor, are not currently available.

The series is co-sponsored by District 30 Jaycees, Livonia League of Women Voters, Northville-Plymouth League of Women Voters and Schoolcraft College student activities and community services offices.

Refreshments will be served by the District 30 Jaycees.

SC Board Can't Pick Own Team

If the February meeting of the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees in any indication, the college may have a long faculty contract negotiation ahead of it.

It took the board longer to approve the administration bargaining team for the faculty contract than any other single item on the agenda—and then the matter wasn't finally settled.

College President C. Nelson Grote had recommended that Personnel Director Gerald Munro and social sciences Director Clay Fechter be named to the team and a "floating chair" be established leaving the administration the opportunity to call in professionals for different areas of the negotiations.

BUT SOME board members objected to naming Fechter to the team because of a possible conflict of interest. Fechter, and all other area directors, are directly involved with the faculty and even teach a class. After an hour of discussion, the board voted to let Dr. Grote to decide whom to

appoint to the permanent seat, hinting that Fechter and other area directors should be excluded.

The board also appointed persons to the negotiating teams for the physical plant contract negotiations and the food service contract sessions.

Munro will be on both teams. Bruce Munro, E. Frederick Petersen Jr. will negotiate on the physical plant and Robert Brethaupt, director of culinary arts, will be on the food service team.

Floating chairs were established on all the administrative bargaining teams.



VINCENT PRICE, star of stage, screen, radio and television, will comment on the theatrical history of villains in "The Villains Still Pursue Me," the title of his talk March 8 at 8 p.m. in the Schoolcraft College gymnasium.



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