

Schoolcraft Case Gets Date In Court

Schoolcraft College will go to court Friday to answer the charge that it should be prevented from holding its June 10 trustees election unless there is "one-man, one-vote" reapportionment.

College attorney Edward Draugelis, of Plymouth, will represent the trustees and the secretaries of three K-12 school districts that are members of the Schoolcraft community college district.

THERE HAVE been several strategy changes since Roger Craig, attorney for the plaintiffs, announced the suit more than a week ago.

Rather than a group of members of the New Democratic Coalition of Livonia, the plaintiffs will be Neil DeStigter, as an individual and chairman of NDCL, and the NDCL itself.

James Boswell, a Schoolcraft trustee from Livonia who has been out of the public view for more than a year, has had his name dropped from the original list of plaintiffs. Because he is not an NDC member, he is not a plaintiff at all. He did, however, attend a party last weekend to raise funds to prosecute the case.

For complex legal reasons, Craig filed his case in Wayne County Circuit Court rather than in the State Court



ROGER CRAIG
NDC Attorney

of Appeals as he had originally planned.

THE CASE has been assigned to the newest member of the Circuit bench—Roland L. Olzak, who was appointed by Republican Gov. William Milliken when Judge Swainson moved up to the State Supreme Court Jan. 1.

Basis of the suit is that the Livonia School District, with as great a population as the other four member districts put together, still gets only one assigned seat on the Schoolcraft board, the same as the other members.

(Three trustees are elected at-large and will probably not be affected by this suit.)



EDWARD DRAUGELIS
College Attorney

Besides the college district, defendants include the Livonia, Plymouth and Garden City school district secretaries, who conduct the election of college trustees at the same time as regular school elections.

(Clarencville and Northville school districts aren't scheduled to elect their trustees to the Schoolcraft board, hence aren't named as defendants.)

THE DESTIGTER-NDCL suit asks two things:

• That the school officials be restrained by the court from receiving and processing nominating petitions under the present law.

• That the court issue a writ of mandamus ordering the college trustees to submit a plan for holding elections on a "one-man, one-vote" basis. If the college fails to come up with a plan, then the court is asked to order an at-large election of trustees.

At last Wednesday's Schoolcraft board meeting, Draugelis advised trustees that they have two options if the court rules the present system unconstitutional.

Either the court could decide how to hold the election, he said, or the board could present the State Legislature a plan of reapportionment.

Draugelis said he was "surprised" by the timing of the NDC suit. Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions is April 26.

In response to a question, Draugelis said he knew of no other suits in the state on the reapportionment of community college districts.

The NDC suit came almost exactly a year after the U.S. Supreme Court, in a Kansas City, Mo. case, ruled that two-year colleges are affected by the "one-man, one-vote" rule, which had in recent years been applied to state legislatures, county boards and municipal councils.



NEIL DESTIGTER
NDC Chairman

Pair Get New Posts At Diesel

Two area men will be part of the realignment of the sales department at the Detroit Diesel Allison Division of General Motors.

Assuming newly-created positions in the move designed to provide more flexibility and broadened sales objectives are C. B. Clum, of 1441 Carol, Plymouth, and D. F. Downham, 1833 Middle Belt, Livonia.

Clum has been named manager of the newly-created industrial gas turbine sales function. He returns to Detroit Diesel Allison from the GM Central Office marketing staff, where he had been manager of truck marketing field operations.

Downham becomes manager of the newly-created distributor development function. He will be responsible for planning distributor growth.

Regional Affairs

At-Large Vote Could Hurt NDC

By TIM RICHARD

The New Democratic Coalition of Livonia, the liberal political club which is asking a court to order "one-man, one-vote" apportionment for the Schoolcraft College District, may find itself on the horns of a political dilemma if it wins its legal case.

And that dilemma could be embarrassing for a group which started the suit frankly as "an image-builder—doing something for the people in Livonia," as one member put it.

Here is how it could—and likely may—work out:

NDC ATTORNEY Roger Craig is confident he has an open-and-shut case: that Circuit Judge Roland Olzak will rule the present "one-district, one-vote" apportionment violates the U.S. Constitution.

Craig's brief would give the college two options if it loses: Either it could submit to the court its own reapportionment plan, or it could let the court order an at-large election.

In reality, there is a third option: The State Legislature could rewrite the college district election law to conform to the constitution.

AS A PRACTICAL matter, it may be impossible for anyone—a college board, a judge or a legislature—to draw up a set of wards for a college district of more than 200,000 population.

analysis

One reason: Time is short; the filing date for candidates is April 26.

Another reason: The U.S. census figures are based on municipal boundaries and census tract lines—not school district lines. School district boundaries meander crazily, often following the property lines of 19th century farms that no longer exist.

Plymouth School District, for example, includes not only Plymouth city and township but a major part of Can-

ton Township and teenysweezy pieces of Northville and Salem Townships. It may take a special census to get adequate figures to draw up wards for the Schoolcraft College district.

Craig expects that if Judge Olzak rules for the NDC, he will order an at-large election on June 10.

WHICH LEADS TO NDC's dilemma.

An at-large election is likely to be highly unpopular with the voting public. There's a lot of community jealousy between historic Plymouth and mushrooming Livonia; there's fear in Little Northville and tiny Clarencville of being overshadowed by the bigger districts.

Indeed, NDC members themselves don't want at-large elections. This observer polled many of them at a recent meeting and found them unanimously in favor of electing Schoolcraft trustees from single-member districts of equal population.

Thus, an NDC legal victory could result in an at-large election that would alienate the very voters before whom the NDC would like to appear as heroes.

Nevertheless, NDC members are adamant that they want a favorable court ruling immediately if not sooner. They'll not hear of a compromise—allowing the 1971 election to be conducted along the present lines, with the 1972 election to be run reapportioned lines.

Help Based On Need, Not Scholarship

ANN ARBOR University of Michigan regents have approved a recommendation to change both the name and policy of the Michigan Public Junior College Scholarship program.

In the past, financial awards were given to outstanding students transferring from Michigan public junior and community colleges.

Under the new program, such students will be designated as "Michigan Community College Scholars," each of them receiving an honorarium of \$50.

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