

the farmington enterprise & observer

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Weekend of July 3-4, 1971

Lichtman Quits Ed. Board; Peters Is New President



By EMORY DANIELS

The Farmington Board of Education is one member short as Gary Lichtman resigned as trustee at the conclusion of Wednesday night's organizational meeting.

The resignation followed completion of what turned out as a repetition of last year's organizational meeting with a caucus of five trustees agreeing on a slate which excluded two of the board's senior members, Lichtman and Aldo Vagnozzi.

Lichtman explained he was resigning because of personal abuse heaped upon him by arch-conservative members of the community and because of the lack of confidence in his leadership ability fellow trustees have shown for the past two years when electing officers. He then suggested Dr. Mervyn Ross be named to replace him.

Elected board officers were: Richard Peters, president; Kenneth Perrin, vice-president; Mrs. Kay Stirling, secretary; and Ronald Emmitt, treasurer. Vagnozzi had nominated Lichtman for president, but Peters gained the office by a 5-2 vote with the caucus holding fast.

Lichtman nominated Vagnozzi for vice-president and, following a speech by Vagnozzi critical of the process of picking the slate, Perrin was elected, vice-president by a 4-3 vote with Emmitt voting for Vagnozzi.

year term on the board of the Oakland County Intermediate School District and has served as vice-president this past year.)

Lichtman said he was told he doesn't present "a good enough front to the public" to be chairman, "but I presented a good enough front to fight for the millage and to stand up against the personal abuse from those elements of the community fighting against public education."

LICHTMAN SAID he would temper his resignation remarks and behave as "gentlemanly" as he did a few months ago "when I became rather perturbed about one of our members going into the personnel files of administrators."

"I can not and will no longer sustain the personal abuse and destroying of my family... As much as I've been accused of being political, it has been my accusers who have been political."

"It is unfortunate the board was not willing to flaunt before the several persons' seeking recall that this board had enough strength to put up the man charged as being the leader of sex education, a charge I consider a high compliment."

"I have considered that by resigning, I may be playing into the hands of the recallers but would hope the board will seat as the new member the person who ran second in the most recent election."

LICHTMAN THEN "charged the board with the responsibility" of appointing Ross to replace him since Ross was the runnerup in the last election. Selection of the runnerup in the most recent election is a precedent established by the board, Lichtman reminded trustees.

"My colleagues have been trying to tell me something for two years," Lichtman concluded. "Well, I'm a slow learner but finally got the message."

Peters commented: "I Continued on Page 10A

today's hot line

Vol. 83, No. 77 18 Pages, 2 Sections

bulletin

18-Year-Olds Get Local Vote

The passage of a U.S. constitutional amendment that would lower the voting age in all elections to 18 could have wide implications in Observerland.

The amendment becomes the 26th added to the U.S. Constitution after it was ratified this week by the 38th state, Ohio. Michigan had been the 15th when it ratified it in April.

Bernard Apol of the State Elections Division said the amendment will take effect "immediately." It further implies that in elections where a "qualified elector" is the only stipulation for persons seeking office, 18-year-olds will be allowed to run for office, he said.

This is where the implications could affect Observerland.

AT LEAST four elections are coming up in the fall where 18-year-olds may be able to seek office.

Schoolcraft College will have a trustee election on Sept. 13 when five seats will be in the race. The college's election provisions do not stipulate an age limit for seeking the office, though the college attorney warned that since Michigan considers 18-year-olds minors, they may not be allowed to seek the posts. A determination of their eligibility will be made this week.

The City of Plymouth will hold a city commission election on Nov. 2. Currently the city has a property ownership requirement for persons seeking the office.

If the city needs an August primary to narrow the field of candidates, only those persons registered to vote by July 5 will be eligible to vote in the primary.

IF THE FARMINGTON School District holds a special election for reconsideration of the millage, Farmington 18-year-olds will be able to vote in August.

But Farmington's newly-franchised voters will be allowed to vote for sure in the Nov. 2 city election and could possibly be allowed to seek office. A three-year residency requirement is the qualification for electors seeking office.

Westland youth will also have a chance to vote in the fall November general election and in the August primary. It is believed youths will also be eligible to seek offices.

All Observerland 18-year-olds on up will be able to vote in the school elections held in June 1972.

What's inside

Beauty Queen

A pretty Farmington coed won a crown at the Oakland County pageant last weekend. You can meet her on our Woman's Page.

Page 7A

Amusements in Action	6A
Churches in Action	4-5A
Classified Want Ads	Sec. 8
Deaths and Funerals	7-8A
Sports—Prep and Pro	8-9A
Spotlight on Women	7A



Observer employees will celebrate the Fourth of July with their families.

The Observer central offices and switchboard will close the evening of Friday, July 2. We will resume business as usual Tuesday, July 5, at 8:30 a.m. Due to the shortened business week, our Wednesday Observer will be published Thursday, July 8. Deadlines for this post holiday edition are:

CLASSIFIED WANT ADS	11:30 a.m. Wednesday
CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS	5 p.m. Tuesday
DISPLAY ADVERTISING	5 p.m. Tuesday
CHURCH-WOMEN'S NEWS	12 noon Tuesday
ALL OTHER NEWS	6 p.m. Tuesday

The Observer circulation staff will be available for calls concerning delivery of your home town newspaper from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, July 3. 261-3800



Township Votes \$12,000

Decline Rap Line Money Hike

Despite complaints from several members of the board of trustees in Farmington Township that reports from the Farmington Area Advisory Council (FAAC) Rap Line program were neither frequent nor detailed enough, approval was given for \$12,000 in new funds at Monday's meeting.

L. David Stader, (trustee), said he wanted to appropriate funds to Rap Line but had reservations about "a municipality like this funding a project on a regular basis."

He said there was a need to "take a good long look" at the merits of the project in future years and expressed "strong

concerns" about the types of activities going on at Rap Line.

HIS COMPLAINT that sensitivity sessions were being used as therapy for youngsters involved in drug abuse was totally denied by a Rap Line worker, Scott Matthews of Farmington. He appeared Monday in place of Rev. Ralph Ridout, Rap Line director who is on vacation.

Five board members, including Earl Teeple, supervisor; Floyd Cairns, clerk; Mrs. Margaret Schaefer, Stader, and Fred Lichtman, trustees—heard Matthews defend Rap Line

procedures. "We are not using sensitivity training because it's against our policy. The whole idea is to curb substance abuse, but we need money to initiate new programs."

Teeple added that costs for maintaining Rap Line will skyrocket from \$37,000 last year to \$74,000 in 1972. He said the City of Farmington donated to help the program obtain enough money to match funds with the government.

Cairns and Stader supported Mrs. Schaefer's proposal that the board only renew funds at the same amount as last year rather than approve a request for additional funds. Licht-

man, a longtime Rap Line supporter, had no comment. The proposal passed unanimously.

IN OTHER action, members voted in favor of considering rezoning requests for two acres in the township.

One is for rezoning 12 acres of residential property near 12 Mile and Halstead to office; the other is to rezone about eight acres at Freedom between Nine Mile and Orchard Lake to apartments.

They are also looking for a new supervisor for the building department. Teeple said he acquired Farmington Continued on Page 2A

Recall Group Is Misleading Residents On Signs--Lichtman

By EMORY DANIELS

Workers seeking recall of four members of the Farmington Board of Education have been creating the impression that persons signing recall petitions are also urging that sex education be placed on the ballot for a vote.

Signs reading "Sign Recall Petitions to Put Sex Education on the Ballot" have been posted at stations established by recall workers to obtain signatures on their petitions.

SUCH SIGNS were used on Saturday, June 26, in front of the Kroger Store at the Farmington Plaza at a table manned by Mrs. Delana Jones of Farmington and another worker.

She was challenged on the

spot by Gary Lichtman, school trustee and one of the four

trustees the recallers have announced they would like off the board.

Lichtman told Mrs. Jones the signs were misleading because a referendum is required to place sex education on the ballot and recall petitioners can do nothing to force a question on the ballot.

"She was told that the recall campaign and petition drive are fine, but it was misleading to say sex education will be placed on the ballot by signing a recall petition," Lichtman says. "It could invalidate their entire drive."

Lichtman said Mrs. Jones told him that sex education was the issue the four trustees would be running on if the

recall reaches the ballot stage.

TRUSTEES ANNOUNCED as targets of the recall drive are Lichtman, Aldo Vagnozzi, Richard Peters and Ronald Emmitt. Heading the campaign is an ad hoc committee calling itself Farmington Parents for a Responsible School Board.

Also active in the anti-sex education drive has been another ad hoc group, Citizens United for Farmington Youth, and the South Oakland Movement to Restore Decency (MOTOREDE).

Lichtman said Saturday afternoon Mrs. Jones had taken down her sign and left the Plaza and the next day recall workers were at the Demery Center with petitions but without the signs.

The petitions on the table Saturday were inspected, and reportedly only one trustee's name was on them. It was not known if workers had petitions in their hands for the other three trustees.

To put the recall question on the ballot, workers must obtain 4,634 signatures of qualified Farmington voters. If these signatures are obtained, a special election is held with voters deciding whether to recall. Recallers have the option of asking for the recall of one, two, three or all four trustees they have announced as targets.

Mrs. Jones is known across the state as a leader of the South Oakland MOTOREDE group, an ad hoc committee of the John Birch Society.

SIGN RECALL
PETITION
TO PUT
SEX EDUCATION
ON THE BALLOT

MISLEADING — This sign posted by a table containing recall petitions seems to indicate that residents signing recall petitions can help put the sex education curriculum on the ballot. To place sex education on the ballot would require a referendum petition, not a recall request.