

Speech to the BOE
February 13, 2006

I would like to announce to the Board of Education and to the public assembled here that the Lansing Community Library Center (LCLC) has decided to delay asking the BOE to place a referendum on the next school budget vote which would have asked Lansing residents to support LCLC becoming a chartered independent library.

Since our inception 5 years ago, the library founders have always know that at some time we would need to ask the community for financial support of the library if LCLC was to become a permanent institution in Lansing. At some point we knew we could not continue to support a library solely through fund raising. But that time was not yet on the horizon. Last spring events outside our control pushed our time frame up. In an attempt to not become part of the TCPL referendum, we began to pursue our own charter so our tax dollars could stay in our town. With that outside force no longer being a factor, the Board of the Friends of LCLC has decided to withdraw any requests for a referendum at this time and go back to our original time frame.

So what are we doing now? We have raised \$325,000 out of our \$350,000 capital campaign for our building expansion project. The bids have gone out and construction will start this spring. Some of the spaces we will be adding are a technology center, a children's room, a circulation/librarian area, and a book processing room. We will greatly expand our shelf space and the library will be fully accessible to all with a two story equal access lift.

We are looking forward to continuing and expanding our relationship with the schools. We now offer wireless access and two public computers, but with our technology center we will increase the numbers and upgrade of our computers. We would like to work with the schools on the feasibility of attaining some of the more specialized computer programs required for student projects, programs that very few students can access on their home computers. We look forward to having the ability to supplement the technology programs, equipment and space available to Lansing students.

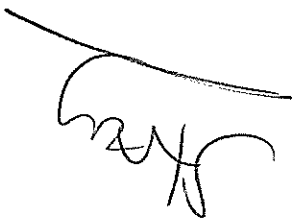
The school has limited space to showcase student's art. Our community room downstairs will act as a gallery for student art. We are in the process of applying for a grant for the opening of that project.

We have applied for and received grants that have allowed us to purchase books requested by Lansing Teachers as supplementary reading for their courses, books that are not in their own budgets to buy.

We are continuing with our library visits for the younger grades as an opportunity for students to hear stories and become card carrying members. Our Friday morning pre-school story hour is a wonderful way for us to introduce the beauty of books to our youngest residents.

This February, in response to the survey we sent out to the community this winter, we have instituted a Programming Committee with the mandate of providing the community with fun and exciting local programming on a monthly basis. We hope to sponsor programs that will speak to all the varied interests and age groups in Lansing.

I thank you for your time, and ask all of you to come and support our local library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. K. K.", written over a horizontal line.

(2/11)