

No Re-vote on Library Status

School board considers tightening up voting procedures

BY MATT COOPER

Now that the Lansing Community Library Center (LCLC) has been approved by Lansing voters, the Lansing Board of Education has no authority to call a revote or annul the most recent vote, board President Thomas Keane said during a regular school board meeting last Monday, Jan. 7.



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Keane consulted with the district attorney after Lansing resident Dan Pace presented the board with a petition protesting the LCLC's most recent vote. Pace said that lax voting procedures had allowed people who did not live in the Lansing school district to vote.

Marlaine Darflur, president of the Friends of the LCLC, confirmed that at least seven of the people who voted in the election were not qualified to do so. She maintains that the school district and voting personnel administered the vote exactly as they were required to by the

school district.

School board member David Dittman, who said he was opposed to a second library vote and voted against it, asked what recourse the community or school board had.

"What do we do in Lansing now," Dittman asked. "Just keep voting down [the library's] budget every year?"

Keane said he did not go into too much detail when researching the question, only that the school board had no authority and it is now up to the library's elected board of directors to decide to dissolve the library or not.

He did, however, point out to Pace that he could petition the state commissioner of education directly with any grievances he had.

"I informed him of that option in a letter I sent to him before Christmas," Keane said. "I wanted to make sure he got that early, because he only has 30 days after whatever grievance to make his protest."

Dittman asked if any new measures – such as voter registration – were being put into place for the district's next election. Keane said that they were looking into it with former Interim

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