

LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE

No date set on Spielvogel hearing

College says it's balancing right to know with due process

By HP STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College's Board of Trustees and suspended President Jennifer Spielvogel are trying to agree to a hearing date to consider her dismissal, the college reported Thursday.

The statement comes after Spielvogel's lawyer, Bradley Glazier, told The Herald-Palladium the meeting would be May 6.

"Should Dr. Spielvogel want the public to have access to additional information, it is her right to request an open just cause hearing," LMC stated. "Both parties are currently working to finalize the date, which will be communicated publicly."

Glazier said LMC's board is ready to fire his client, who started the job Jan. 1.

LMC stated the college must balance the public's right to know what drove the suspension and the legal landscape in which it must make personnel decisions.

"As a public institution of higher learning, Lake Michigan College sincerely values, respects and upholds the rights held by media organizations and members of the general public to access public information.

"... As stewards of the college, we have a responsibility to preserve and protect its resources. The college is in the midst of a sensitive legal issue and is following due process to determine a resolution through a hearing that will take place in less than thirty days.

"Releasing details in excess of the facts and statements already published

regarding this unfortunate situation in the meantime, not only places the college at unnecessary legal risk, but also compromises our obligation to protect the rights of an individual who is still employed by LMC and deserving of respect."

The board voted April 8 to suspend Spielvogel. Meeting minutes indicate trustees were upset about alleged unauthorized spending for, among other things, an inauguration and office renovations.

It said she showed poor leadership, was unprofessional and violated policies.

Spielvogel has offered no public response, but Glazier told The Herald-Palladium that at most his client misunderstood the board's interpretation of her ability to spend money.