

# Applications a-plenty

LMC finding lots of takers for presidency

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**  
HP Correspondent

**BENTON HARBOR** — The search for Lake Michigan College's next president has heated up considerably, with 45 candidates vying for a shot at succeeding President Emeritus/Acting CEO Bob Harrison.

That's how LMC Board President Mary Jo Tomasini characterized the search's latest chapter after Tuesday's meeting, where she reviewed the search. Applications are due by Nov. 7.

Tomasini said the total is based on her latest look at the applicant pile Friday, which is more than double the 20 applications

reported to the board last month.

"We're doing very well," Tomasini said. "We probably have a dozen or so that have community college experience. So the search committee is in the process of reviewing those applicants, and will make recommendations for Skype interviews, from this week, to (early) December."

Once the Skype interviews wrap up, the search committee – on which Tomasini is serving, alongside Vice President Michael Lindley and board Secretary Debra Johnson – will choose the semi-finalists, and schedule an on-campus interview with

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each of them.

“In January, we should have the on-campus interviews done. We hope that yields two to four semi-finalists – our hope is to have our new president in place by the end of first quarter” of 2017, Tomasini said.

The committee and the board are coordinating

the search with the Pauly Group and its president, Angela Provar.

The board is seeking a successor for Jennifer Spielvogel, whom it fired at a public hearing May 5, after three months on the job, citing allegations of unauthorized spending, and unprofessional behavior.

Former president Bob Harrison then returned to the job from which he'd retired in December 2015.

Applicants are coming from as far as Washington state, but so far, no international candidates have emerged, Tomasini – who said the last process yielded two or three, to her recollection.

“We have people (applying) from all over. It really isn't only the Midwest,” she said.

All things considered, the board's decision to wait until fall semester to launch

a second national search seems to have paid off, Tomasini said.

“I believe the consultant (Provar) was wise in giving us that advice. I spoke with her on Friday, and she knows of a few more candidates who'll be putting in their applications before Nov. 7,” Tomasini said. “She really knows the network of community college professionals, technical institutes, things like that.”