

LMC settles on four finalists for president

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BENTON HARBOR — Lake Michigan College has settled on four finalists in its search for a successor for President Emeritus/Acting CEO Bob Harrison.

The finalists include two men and two women, whose names won't be revealed until they've had a chance to contact their current employers, LMC Board Chairwoman Mary Jo Tomasini said after Tuesday's board meeting.

Once that happens, Tomasini expects the finalists' names to be posted — by the end of this week or early next week — on LMC's website.

Until then, they'll only be

known by their numbers: 122, 123, 127 and 129.

"We expect to do interviews (during) the third week of January as long as we have no weather delays or travel delays," Tomasini said. "Those will be publicly posted and similar to what we did before, where the candidate will meet with different constituencies of the college with a public interview in the evening."

The board hopes to have Harrison's successor in place by April 2017, she said.

Details of those interviews, along with the candidates' biographies, will be posted on the website after they're confirmed, Tomasini said.

Tomasini, Vice President Mi-

chael Lindley and Secretary Debra Johnson are the board's representatives on a special committee that's worked since the fall to find Harrison's successor.

Harrison retired as president in December 2015.

The board brought Harrison back after it fired his replacement, Jennifer Spielvogel — citing allegations of unauthorized spending and unprofessional behavior — at a May 5 public hearing. She'd been on the job for three months.

Candidates had until Nov. 7 to apply.

The committee of community, employee and faculty representatives started with 92 resumes, from which it chose 13 semi-finalists — and then cut to the four finalists,

Tomasini said.

The committee is working with consultant Angela Provard of the Pauly Group, which is providing additional help on the search.

All things considered, the college's second presidential search is going well, Tomasini said.

"We are pleasantly surprised that we had more applicants because you never know when you have to do a second search," she said.

Treasurer Judy Truesdell agreed.

"They've (the committee members) done an exceptional job since it's the second time in a year. I just say, 'accolades to them,' as we present these four candidates in January," she said.

Many of the same committee

members returned from the first search, which definitely helped on the second one, Tomasini said.

"They were just as passionate and dedicated as they were originally. We had more candidates to go through, more interviews to do ... a lot of heavy lifting. I think they did great work," she said.

Spielvogel has since sued the college for breach of contract, claiming that the board micro-managed her and undercut her authority during her brief tenure at LMC. No court date has been set.

For further details on the search, visit: <https://www.lakemichigancollege.edu/home/discover-lmc/presidential-candidate-search>.