

Petition For Lincolnville To Withdraw From CSD Circulated

LINCOLNVILLE — Several citizens have collected 85 signatures on petitions requesting a special town meeting to withdraw from the Appleton-Hope-Lincolnville Community School District.

Diane O'Brien of Lincolnville Beach, one of the petition drive leaders, said the petitions will now be submitted to the Lincolnville Town Office for verification and action. O'Brien said 70 signatures, or 10 percent of the people who voted in the last gubernatorial election, were required. She added that the petitions were posted in all the local stores and that several citizens circulated the petitions.

O'Brien cited the desire for more local control over the Lincolnville school as the main reason for the petition drive move.

The CSD, which was formed three years ago, was never too popular in Lincolnville according to O'Brien. "People," said O'Brien, "felt the schools were out of our control." She also said that people felt the state "pressured us into consolidation" by saying that construction funds would be more available to consolidated school districts. Citizens started the petition drive, said O'Brien, following the recent vote against further work on a CSD middle school.

Lincolnville presently sends their grades one through four to Hope although this arrangement may not be affected by a vote to leave the CSD since the early grades have been going to Hope for 12 years. O'Brien also pointed out that the Lincolnville school was designed to ac-

commodate an addition. The building addition route could also be followed in the event the town decides to withdraw.

If Lincolnville votes to withdraw, the town would have to request a local legislator to draft a bill requesting withdrawal and submit it to the Legislature.

Rodney Spearin, the CSD superintendent, preferred not to discuss the petition drive until "specific, concrete" issues arise.

Michael Bruce, Lincolnville selectman, said one of the petitions has thus far been submitted to town officials. Bruce said he favors the move and added, "I think they (petition organizers) ought to be commended. A meeting to decide whether or not the town will withdraw will be scheduled once all the petitions are submitted.