

Dover school board questioned about no Easter program

By JUANITA ABEL

Questions on religious programs in the schools and a presentation of a report on the growing interest in girls' athletics occupied much of the discussion at Monday night's meeting of the Dover board of education.

Five Dover residents, Mr. and Mrs. John Seng, Mrs. Clyde Pence, Mrs. Carol Schrock and William H. Johnson questioned the board on the religious programs.

Their concern was centered on a release by the Dover Ministerial Assn. published recently in The Times-Reporter in which the association said it had decided against presenting an Easter program at the school.

SUPT. BILL KINNEER explained

that since the Supreme Court has ruled that school personnel cannot present religious programs or classes, he had invited the ministerial association to present an Easter program. He also stressed that if the program was presented it would be during free time and only for those students who wanted to attend.

He read part of a letter he received from the association in which it was stated that since the program would have to be presented the Friday before Good Friday because of the spring break for the students, the association felt it would be too long before Easter and it would be better to urge interested students to attend Good Friday services at a local church.

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When asked by members of the visiting group why the board was discontinuing religious observances in the schools, it was pointed out that this is not a matter of board decision but rather a case of obeying a Supreme Court ruling.

SENG SAID HE thought the levies (2.5 mill operating and 1.5 mill capital improvements) to be presented to voters at a special election March 12 were going to fail because the board was bowing to the wishes of a minority group.

This brought the response from several board members that the decision and the levies were in no way related. Ed West, a board member, said he felt it was unfair to have the administration and the board of education become "whipping boys" in the matter. The board reminded the visitors that it is the board's duty to uphold the law.

THE REPORT on athletic programs for girls was presented by Larry Baker, athletic director, and Beryl Scharein, girls' physical education instructor.

Baker stated that at a recent meeting of athletic directors from throughout Ohio, it was stressed that interest in girls' athletic programs is increasing and noted that Dover schools are not an exception.

He stated that although a court ruling has been made permitting girls to take part on boys' teams except in contact sports, he felt it would be better to have a broader program for girls and urged the board's support in expanding such a program.

MRS. SCHAREIN said enrollment has been increasing in all sports activities for girls including basketball, baseball, tennis, volleyball, track and field and gymnastics.

She pointed out that although interscholastic programs are funded by the athletic board, there is a lack of funds for equipment and a lack of space for intramural programs.

Mrs. Scharein also noted the problems encountered by the girls' teams who had to share Crater Stadium, elementary and secondary school facilities and Memorial Hall with other groups making it almost impossible to schedule any satisfactory program.

She also pointed out the need for more women teachers who are qualified to assist with the girls' athletic program in addition to their regular class assignments.

Supt. Kinneer referred to an article in a recent issue of "Readers' Digest" which stated that an athletic program is an important part of education for girls as well as boys.

PAUL KOVAL curriculum director, recommended that one semester (1/2) unit of speech be required for all students as a condition of graduation and that this become a policy effective with the graduating class of 1978. This therefore would apply to those students who enter grade nine in 1974. He noted that speech is to be included as a part of the four units of English now required and will not increase the total units required for graduation.

Floyd May, head of the speech department, said he felt this was important to a student's future since much of his communication with employers, etc. would be on an oral basis and would assist him in such contacts. Board members concurred and accepted Koval's recommendation.

An invitation for the high school band to take part in the opening ceremonies at Monroe Mall in March was declined because of the heavy schedule of preparing for spring concerts and district, regional and state music contests.

In other action the board:

ACCEPTED the recommendation of Supt. Kinneer to purchase liability insurance for board of education members from the Franklin Insurance Co. It was noted that the contract would be a continuation of the present insurance and the bid of \$20 per member was the lowest of three received.

RECEIVED the resignation of Carol Huprich as Dover High Y-Teen Club advisor, and of Jan Zurowski as a teacher. The latter currently is on a leave of absence.

APPROVED supplementary tutoring for one student.

ACCEPTED the appointment of Shirley Weaver, Nancy Callendine, Louis Cervellini, Ann Frank and Linday Bryan to the substitute teaching staff.

APPROVED the attendance at professional meetings for several teachers, administrators and students.