



# Times The Reporter

## Forecast

Clear tonight, lows in the upper 40s and low 50s. Partly cloudy Wednesday, highs in the 60s.

71st Year No. 225

Dover-New Philadelphia, Ohio Tuesday, April 2, 1974

Price 15 Cents

## Dover board pulls one levy off May ballot

BY JUANITA ABEL

Dover school district residents will vote on two school levies instead of three in the May 7 primary election.

That decision was made Monday night by the board of education, which voted 4 to 1 to withdraw an additional 1.5-mill capital improvement levy from the ballot.

The May ballot will contain a 2.5-mill additional operating levy and a 2-mill renewal, both to run for indefinite terms.

The decision to withdraw the capital improvements levy was made following a lengthy discussion. It was the board's consensus that with the mood of voters

relative to additional taxation, all three levies could be rejected.

Both the 2.5 mills and 1.5 mills were defeated by voters in a special election March 12 and a 2.75-mill combination levy was turned down last November.

The board, following an executive session in February, voted to place the 2.5 mills and 1.5 mills on the May ballot, with the intention of pulling both if they had been approved in the March election. The 2-mill renewal request was filed at the same time.

The 1.5 mills would have run for five years and yielded \$525,000 to buy a future school site and make improvements at

the junior and senior high schools and Crater Stadium.

Supt. BILL KINNEER, in commenting on the levies, said: "I dislike taking a negative position, but I think we have to take a look at what happens if the levies fail in May."

Kinneer then outlined the following:

If the 2.5 mill additional operating levy fails there will be some reduction in the professional staff and some doubling up on assignments.

A curriculum director, on the secondary level, would be assigned four periods of classroom work per day.

One elementary principal would split his time between Dover Avenue and South Elementary Schools.

The music staff would be cut one teacher even though the enrollment is greatly increasing.

The number of resource persons in the elementary schools would be reduced.

The elementary teaching staff would be cut by three, causing some increase in class sizes and probably necessitating some changes in attendance boundaries.

Small classes on the secondary level would be eliminated, which would reduce the flexibility of scheduling at that level.

The amount of money being spent for supplies and equipment would be cut 25 per cent, which probably would mean purchasing 50 per cent less supplies and equipment because of inflation.

Painting and maintenance would be cut.

Kinneer said that defeat of the 2-mill renewal levy would mean the schools would be forced to close in late November 1975. The only way to avoid this closing would be to vote a 4-mill additional levy in calendar year 1975 which would not be collected until 1976 and to borrow against the anticipated levy receipts.

THREE VISITORS presented their

views on the school system's money problems. They were: Dr. Francis Hazard, director of Tuscarawas Campus of Kent State University; Charles Deeds, representing the Community Improvement Corp., and Dale Swinderman, former board member.

Each recommended that the 1.5-mill levy not be placed on the May ballot.

Swinderman said he represented the Dover Music Boosters and offered the services of that organization to assist in promoting the 2.5-mill levy.

He said the organization had not ex-

See LEVY...A-3

# Levy removed from ballot

pressed an opinion on the 1.5-mill levy, "but was deeply concerned over the quality of education Dover students would have if the operational levy failed."

Hazard and Deeds said they favored the 1.5-mill capital improvement levy, but agreed that the important issue at this time was passage of the two operating levies.

Hazard stated: "I realize the need for improvements but the priority is in maintaining a good program. Dover has a good faculty, administration and board.

"It would be good business to save the taxpayers money by purchasing the land when you have an opportunity to obtain such an excellent site at such a reasonable price. But, I would be distressed to see any decline in the quality of education for the students."

He also stated that in his position as director of KSU branch he had ample opportunity to judge the quality of education in the schools by the students enrolled at the branch.

**DEEDS, CHAIRMAN** of the Dover expansion committee of the CIC, noted that the organization is interested in acquiring land in the northwest section of Dover adjacent to the property now under option by the school and expressed confidence that new industries will locate there.

For this reason, among others, he said he would like to see the school purchase the land. But, he too, stressed the impor-

tance of getting voter approval for the much-needed operating levies.

The lone negative vote to take the 1.5-mill levy off the May ballot came from Ed West.

The other members agreed with West that there is an urgent need for repairs to buildings and the stadium and that the purchase of the land is important to the growth of Dover schools.

In response to a question by West, Kinneer and Don Peters, administrative assistant, stated that salaries, hospitalization, retirement funds, etc. accounted for 85.15 per cent of the 1973-74 operating budget. Gasoline for buses, custodial supplies and other fixed charges take 8.19 per cent, leaving only 6.6 per cent for supplies and repairs.