

# Dover teachers question board on insurance coverage

By KAY WILLIAMS

An apparent lack of understanding on the terms of the negotiated agreement on insurance coverage brought approximately 20 teachers to the Dover board of education meeting Monday night.

The members of the Dover Education Assn. stated they felt the coverage, as approved by the board with the Travelers Insurance Co., did not provide the permanent value option (enabling the employees to convert the policy from term to permanent insurance at any time) which was agreed upon during contract negotiations.

Don Keller, speaking for the DEA, said: "We would like to have the insurance as negotiated, adhering to the original agreement."

Ed Cavanaugh, a Travelers field representative, and Cal Pretorius of the Pretorius Agency, attended the session and Cavanaugh said the company's proposal had been prepared on the basis of information supplied to the company.

"I think we have a problem with semantics," he said, "and the specific terms need to be spelled out more clearly." He stated that a policy to meet the DEA needs would have to be tailor-made for the school system and that the company he represented might require a specified number of participants in order to prepare such a program.

**THE TEACHERS** indicated they felt the number who would be interested in converting their policies was not the issue at stake, but that the board provide the coverage as promised.

The teachers agreed to provide specific requests which Cavanaugh said he would attempt to meet through a Travelers program. Board President Isabel Moore and member Paul Quicksall emphasized that the contract with Pretorius Agency was approved with the understanding it met the DEA needs. "I feel the board has an obligation to satisfy the DEA in this matter," Quicksall said.

Under the present group policy, the board is paying the cost of \$10,000 term insurance plus survivor benefits for all

Dover school employees. Local insurance firms were contacted and four proposals were considered before the Travelers plan was accepted.

**ALSO PRESENT** at the meeting were Leslie French and John Patterson of the Self-Help, Alternatives, Growth and Youth Services (SHAGYS), a federally-funded agency which deals with drug abuse.

Prior to their presentation, a video tape titled "Update on Drugs" was shown to the board. Raymond Luyster, junior high guidance counselor, explained that the approach used in the tape had been used in planning an in-service seminar for teachers on Thursday.

French, who stated that drug abuse was a community problem and not just an educational one, said that community programs could be developed to provide healthy alternative activities for young people. He said the first step was to specifically define the problem and analyze it.

Patterson briefly outlined the agency's Social Seminar which is de-

signed to involve a cross-section of the community in examining drug use and abuse.

"The responsibility must be put back on the community," Patterson said. "You, as a board, must recognize your role, but you must also say that you can't do it all."

The board agreed to give further study to the possibility of a seminar, but felt more information was needed before making a decision on sponsorship or participation.

**IN FORMAL** action, the board approved supplemental contracts for several extra-curricular assignments. They were:

Michael Rabes, intramural golf, \$150; Beryl Scharein, 7th grade boys basketball, \$350, and assistant cross-country coach, \$100; Jean Morensen, assistant junior high girls track, \$250; Richard Staley, 8th grade boys basketball, \$350, and Ernest Raber, freshmen boys basketball, \$600.

Jeffrey Eklund's resignation as intramural golf instructor was accepted, and David Contini resigned as junior

high drama coach.

Judith Beck and Carole Hathaway were hired as junior high tutors, to provide individualized instruction to students with academic problems. Supt. Bill Kinneer explained that some of the students involved in the program are those with learning disabilities and the state will reimburse the school system for 50 per cent of the tutoring costs.

**SOME DISCUSSION** during the lengthy session was devoted to problems presented by the mother of an East School student, who said she was considering withdrawing her son from the school because of his fears and emotional problems. She said some of the difficulties stemmed from the boy's bus driver and she had been advised by a doctor to keep him at home.

The mother also outlined the boy's physical condition and said he was on heavy medication.

Kinneer responded that attempts had been made to help the boy, but that further discussions would be held with

school personnel to resolve the conflicts.

In other business, the board:

— **ACCEPTED** the resignation from the teaching staff of Mrs. Ethel Young, on disability retirement.

— **APPROVED** participation in the 6th grade camping program at Camp Tippecanoe, May 10-14, at a cost of \$13.60 per student.

— **NAMED** Stephen Lenarz, Sue Bunnell, Edith Kneubuehl and Jack Sweitzer to the substitute teaching staff.

— **ACCEPTED** resignations from two bus drivers and hired two regular drivers, a substitute driver, a substitute cafeteria worker and a classroom aide.

— **APPROVED** home instruction for two students, Heather Immel and Pam Carpenter, because of injuries and illness, respectively.

— **APPROVED** participation in the East-Central Ohio Special Education Resource Center, with the county board of education serving as agent for a supervisor for the educable mentally retarded program.

— **AUTHORIZED** the clerk to advertise for bids for two new school buses, needed for the next school year.

— **GRANTED** approval to General Telephone Co. to install an underground cable on Wooster Highway property.