

Dover schools stick with existing grade setup

By SANDY STEWART

Following in-depth discussion on the possible restructure of grades 7-12 to make grades 7 and 8 junior high and 9-12 senior high, the Dover board of education Monday night took no action to change the present setup.

It was generally agreed to operate with three grades in the junior high and three in the senior high for the 1976-77 school year. Board members and administrative personnel attending all agreed that an additional counselor, preferably female, is needed in the senior high.

Robert Schrock and Charles Wilson, senior and junior high principals, respectively, agreed that the counselor could work primarily with 10th graders, to help them adjust to the move to senior high, during the first semester, and assist 9th graders prepare for senior high during the second semester. She would be available to assist all senior high students, however.

WILSON, WHO described high students as being in a class all their own, said they needed special attention. He

recommended keeping the present 3-3 system. Ed Moeller, assistant junior high principal, agreed, pointing out the freshmen are the leaders in the junior high: "I'd hate to put 300 freshmen into the senior high. They wouldn't be leaders anymore. They'd be at the bottom."

Schrock said it was not good for 12 and 13-year-olds to be with students in their late teens. He also pointed out the present system is inflexible. "Team teaching is out — we just can't do it under this system."

Larry Baker, assistant senior high principal, stated he could see no particular advantages to changing the system as long as all the students were in the same building. "I think the 9th graders would get a better education if grades 6-8 were pulled out, but not with just restructuring."

There was general agreement that a middle school for grades 6-8 would be ideal, but Isabel Moore, board member, pointed out: "So far we haven't been able to convince the taxpayer."

R. WILLIAM SWEITZER of Sweit-

zer Insurance Agency of Dover, firm which last month was awarded a one-year contract for coverage on buildings and buses and theft protection on miscellaneous equipment, protested board action taken last month.

During a recessed session, the board rescinded a Jan. 28 motion to buy the insurance, renewable annually for three years, from the agency and voted to enter the one-year contract. Sweitzer maintained the board awarded his agency a contract to furnish the insurance for three years, payable on an annual installment basis.

Sweitzer asked the board to reconsider its position and comply with the original agreement. "The only way to get this decided, my lawyer says, is to take legal action against the board. That's a decision I must make."

"For years," he continued, "another firm handled this (insurance) and there were no questions, but the minute somebody else is in the picture pressure is brought to bear and you reversed your decision based on this pressure."

Sweitzer added that he had no malice toward any board member, but felt he had the lowest bid, based on specifications, or he wouldn't have received the contract.

The board reviewed its position with Ed West noting, "We found we had a maze of conflicts and were trying to resolve this. We wanted to be certain we had adequate coverage at the best price."

Mrs. Moore added, "I think the board, Sweitzer Agency and Hanhart Agency (the other bidder) all acted in good faith, but we need to clear up the irregularities."

The board's action to rescind the first contract came after it was learned premiums increased \$2050 over the bid price. The increase was due to increased building valuation and stated-ordered rates. Annual bid price was \$14,639, but the first premium reflected the increase.

In other action the board:
—SAW plans for the renovation of the industrial arts department, presented by Don Glen of Marr-Knapp-Crawfis of New Philadelphia, at a total cost of \$16,731 and voted to advertise for bids on the work, tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-June.

—HEARD three proposed schedules for the 1976-77 school year. Action is to be taken at the May meeting.

—APPROVED the appointment of Russell McGlothlin as coordinator of Project Ohio for \$500.

—ACCEPTED resignations from the following certified personnel: Grace Day, Ruth J. Burky, Allen Brown, Linda Earley, Marjorie L. Benedum and George Schwarm, and the following non-certified personnel: Lester Carl. It was noted a replacement for Carl, a custodian, will be hired through civil service.

—ACCEPTED resignations from the following certified personnel from extra curricular duties: Richard R. Staley, 8th grade basketball coach; Ernest Raber, freshman basketball coach; Joanne Limbach, social studies chairperson; Lois Miller, vocational home economics chairperson, and David Fullerman, junior class adviser.

—APPOINTED Anne Ramsey as junior high girls' track for \$250, Margot Dean as choreographer for "Oklahoma" for \$75 and Bonnie Smith as an aide at South School at \$2.53 per hour.

—NAMED the following to the substitute list for the remainder of the school year: Kenneth C. Finzer, Robert E. Sattler, Bonnie L. Rowe, Bernard W. Palmatier, Donald E. Richwine, Miriam Pierson, Shirley Albaugh and Shirley Dunbar.

—APPROVED home study for the following students: Brett Swinderman, 9th grade; James A. Graef, 10th grade; and Dawn Ewing, 11th grade.

—SIGNED a contract with Educational Television for Southeastern Ohio (ETSEO) for instructional television service for the 1976-77 school year for \$814.50 or 25 cents per student.