

Vocal instructors air unhappiness with work load

Dissatisfaction was expressed by some members of the Dover schools' music department Monday night when members met with the board of education to discuss the music programs.

Walter Heck, director of the 8th, 9th and senior choirs, was the most unhappy with his schedules and duties.

"I feel that I do need help," he said. "I think that in the seven years I've been here, I've done more than my share. No more than five times this year have I eaten lunch."

Heck explained that in addition to his lunch periods, he has given up conference periods and spent time after school with students, because of his heavy schedule.

WHEN ASKED by Supt. Bill Kinneer who assigned all the work (sectionals, vocal classes, contests, etc.) to him, Heck said he had requested a list of specific duties each year, but had never received one. He explained that the students and residents expect the vocal groups to participate in the contests, etc.

Kinneer then asked Frederick Delphia, department chairperson and band director, if he had a specific assignment list and Delphia replied that he did not. He said he assumed his duties involved whatever was needed to have a quality instrumental program in the schools.

Heck's wife, elementary vocal instructor, also stated she has a heavy schedule and compared hers and that of Mary Hanner, part-time elementary instructor, with those of the elementary physical education teachers.

Delphia, in reference to the instrumental department, stated, "We must make some changes here if the successful program is to continue. I think if things (music programs) don't continue to go well here, the people won't put up with it."

He suggested some structure reorganization in the instrumental program, placing additional duties with assis-

tants Robert Lyon, Terry Krause and Robert McFarren with stipend increases of \$150 each.

DELPHIA ALSO asked board members if they felt the band program was too ambitious. Kinneer, who noted he was speaking as a parent, said he felt the band was trying to do too much in the fall with activities Friday night and Saturday and Sunday.

Board member Ed West agreed, but added he felt the number of performances was a decision that students had a voice in. He pointed out he did not want to sacrifice the band's quality.

Paul Koval, director of curriculum, said he thinks there is a problem with the instrumental program when a student who drops out of band is harassed by other students.

Delphia asked Koval if he was suggesting that the department members had anything to do with such activity, and Koval responded, "Well, it's the organization." Delphia explained that if a student wants to drop the program, he talks with him and gives the pros and cons of the program. Then, if the student still wants out of the program, the issue is dropped. "Any problems he has after that are of a personal nature with the students," he added.

Delphia also noted: "You can't just lump the music program in with the language program or the English program. Arts are different and must be dealt with differently."

"We (music staff) are constantly having to defend ourselves in this school. Other staff members, not the board of education, question what we are doing and, frankly, we're getting sick and tired of it," he continued.

As a possible solution to the vocal program scheduling problem, Delphia recommended that Mrs. Hanner be given additional duties so Mrs. Heck could have time to assist her husband.

The board said they would study the recommendations and discuss them at a recessed session.