

Dover to pay parents for hauling students to Indian Hills Christian

By KAY WILLIAMS

Dover board of education Monday night took two actions with reference to the Indian Hills Christian School at New Philadelphia.

The board agreed to accept a limited number of credits from that or any other non-public, non-certified school, and to pay transportation costs — but not provide busing — for students only in kindergarten through 8th grade attending Indian Hills.

The transportation decision resulted from a request from Rev. Wesley Hunt of the First Baptist Church, sponsor of Indian Hills.

In order to receive reimbursement (not to exceed the average cost as determined by the state department of education), parents of students must request transportation, in writing, and sign a contract on file in the board clerk's office.

Supt. Bill Kinneer said about 30 students are involved and costs will be around \$60 per year per student. The state will reimburse the Dover school system for transportation costs paid to parents.

"The school is simply the agent between the parents and the state," Kinneer said. Law requires that transportation, or "in lieu" costs, be provided for certified schools.

The Indian Hills classes for kindergarten through 8th grade have been certified by the state, but grades 9-12 have not.

The board, on recommendation of Kinneer, agreed it was not feasible or practical to provide bus service to the school for the present term. School bus routes for the year were already finalized when Rev. Hunt's request was made and the Indian Hills dismissal

time is not compatible with existing bus runs, they said.

NEW PHILADELPHIA school Supt. Ron Eickenberry said both the transportation of Indian Hills students and possible transfers were discussed in a work session with his board of education Monday night.

He said he has received no requests for transportation from parents yet, but added that the board feels it would be "impractical to transport them." The alternative would be to take action similar to the Dover board's.

The issue of students transferring into New Philadelphia schools from Indian Hills has not arisen, Eickenberry said. When it does, he expects his board to adopt guidelines which also are similar to those adopted at Dover Monday night, with the possible exception of limiting the number of accepted credits.

THE POLICY on accepting credits for students wishing to be admitted or re-admitted to Dover High after attending a non-approved school will apply to all such schools. It is limited to accept only nine credits.

The policy requires:

— A transcript must accompany the child who is transferring.

— The transcript must indicate the teacher's name and certificate number and verification by the teacher that the class met at least 120 hours in order to qualify for one unit of credit.

— The class for which credit is given must also be similar to classes offered by the public schools.

— If these qualifications are met, the superintendent may accept no more

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Transfer policies set

than nine such credits to count toward the 18 required for graduation.

Need for the policy arose when a Dover student sought re-admission to Dover High, transferring from Indian Hills, this year. The student was admitted and is attending classes, pending the adoption of a policy.

Kinneer noted that he had not forced the issue of complying with the state's compulsory school attendance laws, which require a parent to send his child to approved schools. He noted that such issues often created long court battles with little results.

"Since I did not enforce the attendance laws last year, and we are now

faced with a student wishing to transfer back into this school district, I guess, morally, I have to do what is best for the child," he said.

Mrs. Isabel Moore, board president, stated she felt parents should be made aware of these requirements when they are planning to transfer students from Dover to non-certified schools. "They have a right to send their children to other schools, but they should be told what this policy means," she said.

Member Paul Quicksall commented, "I think the policy is a good idea, because it helps to maintain standards."