

# Dover board to vote Monday on elementary reorganization

By SANDY STEWART

Two items of major community interest — the reorganization of Dover's elementary system and a change in the driver education program at Dover High — are included on the agenda for Monday night's board of education meeting.

Superintendent Bill Kinneer said Friday he will recommend that the board approve a reorganization of the elementaries for three reasons: to better equalize enrollment, to improve educational programs and to reduce operating costs in the district.

The plan the superintendent will recommend would make South, East and Dover Avenue primary schools, housing grades kindergarten through 4, and Park an intermediate school for all 5th and 6th graders in the district.

Students in grades K-4 who normally would attend Park would be assigned to the other three elementaries. Tentative boundaries for their assignments are walking students and those living in Indian Meadows, Dover Avenue; students living west of I-77, South, and all remaining students, East.

**EACH OF THE** three primaries would have reading, learning disabilities (LBD) and kindergarten classes. A breakdown of the number of other classes, based on projected 1977-78 enrollment figures, at each of the schools follows:

**South Elementary** — There would be two 1st, 3rd and 4th grade classes and three 2nd grade classes and a classroom for the educable mentally retarded (EMR) program.

**East Elementary** — There would be four 1st and 3rd and three 2nd and 4th grade classes, as well as a classroom for the EMR program.

**Dover Avenue Elementary** — There would be three 1st and 2nd and two 3rd and 4th grade classes.

All regular classrooms in each of the schools would be used with the exception of one at South.

At Park Elementary 17 of the 21 rooms would be used as regular classrooms — 15 for grades 5-6 and one each for the LBD and EMR programs. There would be seven 5th grade and eight 6th grade classes.

Of the four "extra" rooms, one could be used for instrumental music, which would not begin until the 5th grade un-

der the reorganization; and another for art.

**KINNEER EXPLAINED** the proposed reorganization is educationally sound and in the best interest of students in the Dover system. Among advantages he cited were the elimination of split classes (two grades in one classroom with one teacher), a better and more flexible grouping of classes (more classes per grade level in each school), a better balance of class sizes throughout the district, better use and availability of resource materials for 5th and 6th grade classes and availability of special education classes in each elementary.

He also pointed out that some of the anxieties students experience in the transition from 6th to 7th grade could be alleviated under the proposed reorganization.

Citing the change from a non-graded elementary structure to a graded secondary structure as one reason for students' concern, Kinneer said some 5th and 6th grade subjects could be graded, making the change a more gradual one.

**THE PROPOSED** change in the driver education program, which would make the state-required course more economically sound, would result in improved practical driving experience for students.

Under the present system both text instruction and practical experience are conducted during the school day with students often receiving as little as 15 to 20 minutes of actual driving a week.

The proposed change would eliminate driving during class time. The board would contract with individual teachers, who are certified in driver education, to supervise driving after school and on weekends, giving students longer driving periods, as well as more city, freeway and night driving experience.

The board meeting, which is open to the public, will begin at 7:45 in the high school cafeteria.