

# Student voices teacher support

By SANDY STEWART

Students' concern — and perhaps a little "professional jealousy" — that a part-time vocal music instructor has not been rehired was expressed to the Dover board of education Monday night.

Scott Thompson, a member of the senior choir, told the board that Sherri Hamsher, who was hired on an hourly basis last September to assist vocal music director Walter Heck in the 1976-77 school year, is needed in the school's music program.

Explaining that he was expressing "the opinion of the total choir, not just my personal opinion," Thompson said: "The assistance she gave was great. We've never been able to take three choirs to contest before this year. It was a great year — the best in my years in choir."

Thompson said that Mrs. Hamsher's work with the female choir members was invaluable and in part responsible for the three top ratings the choirs earned in state competition.

The senior, who said he could have attended summer school and graduated early but did not because he wanted to participate in the vocal music program, added: "We feel that if the band can have assistants, so can the choir. We think the choir has really shown improvement — it's as good as the band."

"**THE CHOIR** always feels shoved in a corner behind the band. The band always gets everything first, and we feel that taking a director away is just another shove.

"We've had no recognition for what we've done," he continued, adding that Heck has indicated he will not take the choir to state competition for at least the next two years because of the work and responsibility involved.

Thompson explained the amount of time Heck has devoted to the vocal music program and students and concluded, "We think the students' opinions are very important and we just want to stress our concern. . . . We feel that choir is a vital program."

Mrs. Hamsher's contract was among those not renewed at the April 18 board meeting. At that time Supt. Bill Kinneer explained that teachers' contracts automatically are extended unless they are notified otherwise by April 30. When there is any question about the need for an instructor in a certain area

for the coming year, teachers are notified that their contracts are not being renewed, but they often are rehired when a need is shown.

Monday night Kinneer told Thompson he had talked with Mrs. Hamsher, explaining this procedure to her. He added: "There is no question about her ability. In all probability she will be back next year."

**THE BOARD**, on the recommendation of Kinneer, went on record as not approving school-sponsored walk-a-thons or bike-a-thons. The superintendent explained the May 1 death of a Dover student, who was participating in a walkathon, brought the matter to his attention.

"I don't think we can guarantee the safety of such events and I feel we should stay out of them," he stated.

The board adopted English and literature programs for grades 7-9 and science programs for the elementaries.

Mike Rabes, English instructor, made a presentation of the Scott Foresman series of English grammar and usage and the Scott Foresman literature program. Total cost for texts and materials is \$11,003.

A presentation of the elementary science program, which has a total cost of \$8330, was made by Wayne Reesé, elementary principal. He noted that cost of supplemental materials reflecting the theory of creation was included in the total.

Kinneer explained he has been told that a cost analysis and comparison, as requested by the Committee of Concerned Parents, would be nearly impossible to conduct because of the various bookkeeping systems employed by different schools in the state.

He added that in response to his inquiries he has been informed that the only comparison available is of costs per pupil in districts throughout the state.

**IN OTHER** business the board:

—**ACCEPTED** resignations from extra-curricular duties from the following: Martha Thomas, junior high intramural tennis coach; David Fullerman, 7th grade football coach; Anne Ramsey, junior high assistant track coach and Y-Teens adviser, and Kathryn Studer, assistant adviser to Back the Guys.