

School levy vote in Dover set April 11

By SANDY STEWART

Residents of the Dover school district will be asked a second time to approve an operating levy to keep the schools open.

Monday night the board of education passed a resolution to place an emergency levy, to generate \$750,000 per year for three years, before voters on April 11.

Exact millage will be determined by the county auditor, but Supt. Bill Kinneer estimated it will be about 7 mills.

Last November, a 5.5-mill additional operating levy was defeated by 97 votes.

The levy is needed because the district faces an estimated deficit of \$460,000 this year. The figure does not take into consideration any salary increase which may be granted school personnel. Kinneer noted Monday night that he was notified last week that the district will receive about \$50,000 less in state foundation money this year than anticipated.

KINNEER HAS estimated that money will run out in early November and schools will be forced to close if additional income is not found. If the levy is approved in April, the district will be able to borrow the money needed to operate for the remainder of the year and pay the principal and interest back at the rate of \$185,000 per year during the three years (1979-81) the emergency levy is effective.

Kinneer explained the \$750,000 sought by the board does not provide for inflation, adding that cuts will

Dover 7th and 8th graders would be housed in one wing of the high school under a proposal considered by the board of education Monday night. Page B-1

have to be made in the system even if the levy is approved.

Board members indicated they did not want to ask voters for more money than is actually needed, even if the district, as board member Terry Jones said, will be leading "a hand to mouth existence."

THE SUPERINTENDENT presented budget figures for the last three years which showed that the 2.37 percent overall increase in income is not proportionate to the rise in expenses.

Some examples were salaries, 18.8 percent increase; gas, 53.8 percent; bus repair, 24.8 percent; tuition to other districts (for Starlight and other special education students), 53 percent; and fixed charges (retirement, insurance, hospitalization), 28 percent.

Kinneer pointed out that the state is considering changing the method of funding education, but that if changes have not been made before the levy expires, the board will have to ask voters to approve it again.