

7th, 8th grade area proposed under Dover plan

By SANDY STEWART

As a result of action by the Dover Board of Education Monday night, 7th and 8th graders may have less contact with older students next fall.

The board voted to request a change in its charter from a six-six (grades 1-6 and grades 7-9) system to an eight-four (grades 1-8 and grades 9-12) system.

After the State Department of Education approves the change, the district could operate under a middle

school concept with the 12 grades plus kindergarten divided into the following units: kindergarten through 4th grade, 5th grade through 8th grade and 9th grade through 12th grade.

If the board adopts such a reorganization, the elementaries (kindergarten through 4th grade) would remain basically as they are. Grades 5-8 would be supervised by a principal and a fulltime assistant, as would grades 9-12.

Under such a system, the 7th and 8th grades could be housed in one wing of the high school, possibly the 6th st. wing, and virtually isolated from the high school. Curriculum for 7th and 8th grades would be language arts, including English, writing, reading and spelling; arithmetic; science; social studies; art; music; and physical education. Eighth grade curriculum also would include a full year of home economics and industrial arts for all students.

IN RESPONSE to questions he has

received from residents, Kinneer explained that bus drivers are spending a total of 55 minutes more per day on the road than they did last year as a result of the reorganization of elementaries.

Kinneer pointed out this is the total time of all bus drivers, not each driver.

For the 1976-77 school year, a total of 67 hours and 30 minutes was spent on the roads per day, while this year, records show a total of 68 hours and 25 minutes.

The superintendent noted that the addition of a kindergarten bus, not related to the reorganization, accounts for an additional 1 hour and 25 minutes, resulting in the increase of 55 minutes attributable to the reorganization.

IN OTHER business the board:

—ACCEPTED, with regret, the resignation of Patricia Sindlinger as a library technician.

—NAMED Terry Jones, a board member, to serve on the high school

athletic board.

—APPROVED an intramural program for over 120 5th and 6th grade students at Park Elementary to run through March 10 and hired Sandy Fisher and Richard Staley at \$8 per hour for two hours per week to direct the program.

—GRANTED professional meeting requests to eight staff members at a cost of \$494 to the board.

—RECESSED until Jan. 31 at 8 p.m.