

Dover group wants scientific creation taught

By SANDY STEWART

In March the Dover board of education appointed a group of citizens to study religious aspects in the schools after complaints (and general agreement by board members) that the policy of providing "equal time" to theories other than evolution was not being followed.

Monday night, when the committee presented its findings after six months of study and meetings, there was general agreement again — the policy of providing "equal time" to theories other than evolution is not being followed.

The committee asked that scientific creation be taught in all science classes in kindergarten through 12th grade; that sufficient textbooks and supplemental materials for such instruction be provided, and that

teachers be prepared to teach scientific creation through use of speakers, seminars and introductory materials.

Shirley Miller, board president, pointed out that immediate purchase of texts, etc. is impossible because of the district's financial situation, while Ed West added that teachers presently are not prepared to begin teaching scientific creation.

One parent, not a committee member, said the board's decision on scientific creation instruction could have a significant impact on outcome of the 5.5-mill levy to be presented to voters Nov. 8. The district faces a \$550,000 deficit next year without the additional millage.

ALTHOUGH COMMITTEE members in general agreed that it would not be realistic to expect instruction of scientific creation to

begin immediately, one of its members, Mildred Gray, said the committee recommends the board implement its policy, "and do it quickly."

West, following the committee's presentation, said: "I think we'd better define what we're doing here and where we're going." He suggested that the board make some decision on what actions to take now.

It was agreed to table the committee's recommendation until a recessed session, Oct. 26 at 8 p.m., when further discussion will be held. Board members Isabel Moore and Jim Zifer are to work with Paul Koval, director of curriculum, to determine how other schools are preparing their staffs to teach scientific creation.

The committee also requested that Atty. Mark Frasure and Fr. Marvin Juisti be appointed to serve on the

group. The board agreed.

DURING DISCUSSION of promotion of the levy, Don Peters, administrative assistant, reported that there has been little response to the district's hotline, instituted to provide answers to questions residents may have about the levy or other school-related matters.

Supt. Bill Kinneer, in discussing the district's finances, explained that the district will receive about \$56,000 less in real and personal property taxes and state foundation money than anticipated this year. He noted that this is the first year the district has received less than the county budget commission has estimated.

The superintendent added that with careful spending and delay of the Dec. 23 payroll until January, the district would be able to operate through the end of the year.

Kinneer recommended, and the board agreed, to reject a compromise offer of Penn Central Railroad to pay 50 per cent of the approximately \$25,000 owed the school district in back taxes. Kinneer explained the county budget commission has rejected the offer and is hoping for a full settlement.

IN OTHER business the board:

—**HEARD** a complaint that a Central Catholic student had been verbally abused on one of the Dover buses. Peters is to investigate.

—**ACCEPTED** the resignation of Sue Bunnell from the certified staff and of Robert Wise as head varsity track coach.

—**HIRED** Robert Blickensderfer as a Title I teacher; Joan Goth as a Title I teacher at St. Joseph Elementary, and Elizabeth Humphrey for home instruction duty.

—**GRANTED** a two-year leave of absence to Susan Tischbein.

—**ADOPTED** textbooks, entitled "General Industrial Education," for the 8th grade industrial arts program at an approximate cost of \$1188.

—**NAMED** Mark Stachowitz as 7th grade basketball coach.

—**APPROVED** professional meeting requests for 16 staff members at a cost of \$516.

—**APPOINTED** Jim Zifer to serve on the principal's curriculum committee. The first meeting will be held Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 115 at the high school. All interested people are invited to attend.

—**RESOLVED** the transfer of funds for purchase of two buses for \$33,360. The state will reimburse the district about 90 per cent.

—**CHANGED** the date of the next month's regular session to Nov. 21.