

Action taken on OSU survey calling for merger with Dover School District

Phila board says: 'Let's vote!'

By NORM SINGLETON
Times-Reporter City Editor

Official silence on an Ohio State University survey team report recommending the administrative merger of Dover and New Philadelphia school districts was broken Monday night by the New Philadelphia board of education.

It unanimously approved a resolution requesting that the merger question be placed before the voters of the New Philadelphia and Dover school districts at the earliest possible date.

New Philadelphia's resolution points out that the "survey team recommended a jointure . . . to better utilize the total resources of the two communities in order to provide ex-

panded and-improved educational opportunities for all the children of the two districts."

The action means the next move is up to the Dover board which must approve a similar resolution for the issue to be placed on the ballot.

"For many years — at least since I have been on the board — we have conducted discussions that would have led to this type of thing," board President Earl Olmstead commented.

He termed the Ohio State survey an "impartial eye" that had been fair to both parties and said, "We certainly hope the Dover board would look with favor upon the resolution."

Vice President Mike Rapport commented that "some

of our earlier considerations were fortified by the OSU report."

Dover's board of education, which also met Monday night, did not discuss the New Philadelphia board action or the OSU report. See Page A-11 for the Dover story.

Supt. Dr. Philip Tieman called the resolution "an appropriate expression of our opinion." Board member Mart Sand added that the two school districts would get the benefit of the survey whether the suggested merger takes place or not.

The two boards of education contracted for the survey on March 12, 1969, at a cost of \$5000 each payable over two

years. An informal report was released at a joint board meeting July 21 and the complete 226-page report was made available in late September.

Last night's action was the first official expression since that time.

Copies of the OSU survey are available in libraries and schools of the two communities.

Also examined by the board was the latest in a series of proposals for a Buckeye Joint Vocational School District.

The new plan, discussed by superintendents last Saturday, will be up for official adoption when the Buckeye JVS board meets Friday, probably in the Tuscarawas County board of education office.

See VOTE Page A-11.

The Times Reporter

It calls for a JVS district embracing the following school districts: Claymont, Coshocton City, Dover, Garaway, Indian Valley, Newcomerstown, New Philadelphia, Strasburg-Franklin, Tuscarawas Central Catholic and Tuscarawas Valley.

River View Local in Coshocton County and East Holmes in Holmes County will contract with the district and have the option to join at a later date.

Conotton Valley in Harrison County, Ridgewood in Coshocton County and West Holmes in Holmes County will either agree to contract for services or join the district by July 1, 1971.

Other action taken by the board was:

APPROVED an easement permitting installation of a retention basin on board property in the Holderbaum addition.

APPROVED the federally-sponsored regulations and practices concerning free and reduced price lunches. Purpose of the program, known as the Perkins Bill, is to assure that every youngster gets one good meal a day.

APPROVED a resolution requested by the Ohio School Boards Assn. calling for reforms in state tax support of education.

APPROVED payment of \$600 dues to the Ohio School Boards Assn.

ESTABLISHED appropriations for funds received through the National Defense Education Act.

ADJOURNED to meet Tuesday, Dec. 29 at noon in the Delphian Inn to handle year-end business and to set the time and place for the January organizational meeting.

ADDED Robert Maus, Douglas Willoughby, Janet Jenkins and Rodney Kendle to the substitute teacher list.

EMPLOYED Mary Lee Strumbras as a substitute food service worker at the rate of \$1.60 per hour.

APPROVED supplemental contracts for the following supervisors of the elementary recreational program at a rate of \$5 per hour: Richard Bassetti, Ronald Fletcher, John Glazer, Thomas Carr, Jerry Dawson, William Knisely, Kathy Clymer, Martha Massarelli and Jerry Beaber.

EMPLOYED Barbara Fuerst as a tutorial teacher in the neurologically handicapped program. The program is reimbursed 50 per cent by the state.

AUTHORIZED an increment of \$200 per year for Gerald Heron effective Jan. 1 and named him head custodian for the night shift custodial staff. This is a new position and will provide direct supervision on the night shift.

AUTHORIZED placement of Lowell Burrier on the substitute list at the rate of \$35.40 per day.

AUTHORIZED use of the junior and senior high buildings for the Saturday, Feb. 20, District VIII junior high solo and ensemble contest.

REDESIGNED the driver education program as follows: two instructors on duty for the summer of 1971 and the addition of one half-time driver education instructor to the staff for the 1971-72 school term.