

Reading Re-emphasized

The recent cry "back to basics" baffles district teachers who wonder aloud, "Who thinks we have strayed away from emphasizing the basic scholastic skills?" During the past few years district teachers have worked to develop interesting and relevant approaches to helping students acquire basic skills, a fundamental core of knowledge, and the skills to make use of what they have learned.

The junior high reading program is one example of continued efforts to help pupils be competent in the basic skills. Teachers, parents, and students have recognized the need to be able to read faster with more accurate understanding. An extensive survey of students' achievement test results pinpointed the reading skill areas where improvement was needed.

Teachers and administrators examined new reading materials and studied reading programs designed to help students improve reading skills. A group of teachers and principals visited districts recommended by the Pennsylvania Department of Education as having very

Your school board

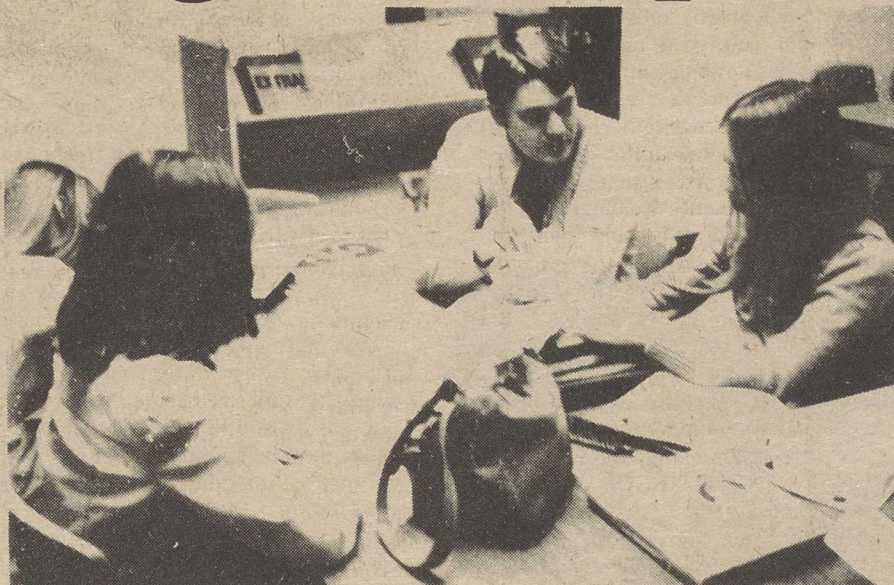
Today's schools face many challenges. It is your elected directors, sitting as the Board of Education, that provides the team effort in setting direction for effective action concerning education in the Dallas School District. This is the group responsible for the long-range planning necessary to keep abreast of developments in education and to stave off educational obsolescence.

The Board of School Directors of the Dallas School District has developed through the years a reputation for thoroughness, fairness, and willingness to give audience to all ideas, convictions and opinions. Through its actions and accomplishments, the Dallas Board has shown a sincere concern for those they serve and has established the image of being committed to providing quality education.

Public education in the American tradition is controlled and directed by lay persons elected from their communities. Every election of school directors brings to the service of the State and our communities men and women charged with the responsibility of educating most of the children in our school district.

Board members approach their responsibilities with the hope and promise that their actions will reflect the desired directions of their fellow citizens. Board members can best serve their communities when there is communication and cooperation among the citizens. The Dallas Board will continue to promote these characteristics and encourages your recommendations and involvement.

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Mr. John Wega, junior high school reading specialist, leads students through skill building activities in reading center.

good secondary school reading programs. Based on their study and visitations, along with suggestions from other teachers and staff, specific plans were formulated to develop a diagnostic-corrective remedial reading program in the Dallas Junior High School. Simply stated we are going to do a better job of finding out a youngster's specific reading difficulty and involve him in interesting activities designed to strengthen that particular skill.

The district's desire to help students become more competent readers was expressed as part of a program proposal requesting that some Federal funds be allocated to the junior high school reading program. The request was approved and Elementary Secondary Education Act, Title I funds are supporting the expanded program.

Two class sections are scheduled for reading at the same time. The sixty to sixty-five students are separated into three groups according to their reading needs as determined by their performance and reading achievement test scores. Students in each group have demonstrated similar levels of achievement and have common needs for building certain reading skills. Three reading teachers and one instructional aide work as a team in planning the most appropriate instructional activities for individuals in each group. It is possible for students to participate in instructional activities and to use the materials best suited to their individual needs.

Attention is also given to reading textbooks and the related materials used in students' other courses. Students are

encouraged to bring their subject area textbooks to class where reading guides, study skills, and specific reading skills relating to the various subject areas are worked on during reading classes.

In addition to the reading help given the students in their other subject area, part of an in-service day was devoted to helping the secondary school teachers and staff become aware of reading skills as they relate to their individual subjects. Methodologies of classroom teacher diagnosis and referrals were discussed, as well as ways to structure a daily lesson to include directed reading activities. A questionnaire was distributed to the staff asking them to give to reading specialists a listing of their students' specific reading needs and the kind of reading information teachers would find useful such as determining text readability levels; preparing reading guides; matching students to texts based on students' reading achievements.

The additional reading specialist and instructional aide provided through Federal funds make it possible for teachers to work with smaller groups and to have some time available for individual attention. Close supervision is also available for independent study and extended skills development activities for advanced readers who have demonstrated a strong foundation of basic reading skills.

New materials and equipment available to students include a multi-station student listening center, cassette recorders, and small group audio filmstrip cassette players, as well as multi-media reading activities at all levels.

The new program promotes reading as an integral part of the learning process.

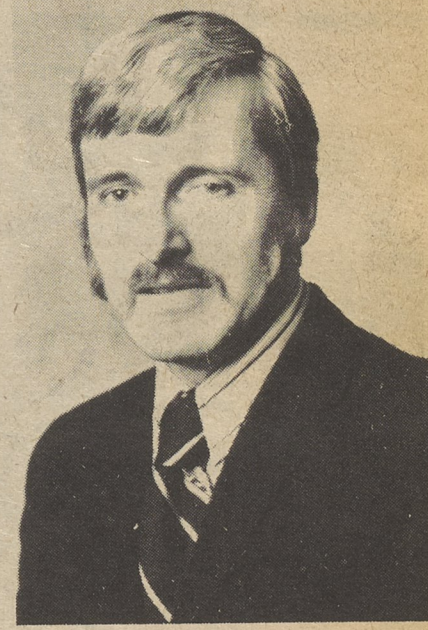
New board members elected



Mr. Earl D. Fritzges, elected for a six year term--1976-1981. Graduated from Kingston Township High School and Wilkes College. Member of the Trucksville United Methodist Church. Employed by Dun & Bradstreet as a Sales Representative. Served in the U.S. Army. Mr & Mrs. Fritzges have six children.



Mrs. Gloria D. Brennan, elected for a six year term--1976-1981. Graduated from G.A.R. High School. Member of the Gate of Heaven Church. Occupation-housewife. Mr. & Mrs. Brennan have five children.



Mr. Richard D. Hislop, elected for a six year term--1976-1981. Graduated from Dallas Township High School and Bloomsburg State College. Affiliated with the Y.M.C.A., many boys' sports groups, Member of the International Association of Machinists and has served as its secretary. Member of the Orange United Methodist Church. Employed by the Diamond Manufacturing Company as a tool and die maker. The Hislops have three children.