



NEWS ITEM - As a result of teacher and program cutbacks, some 6th grade students at the Dallas Middle School have as many as 10 study halls weekly.

Teachers

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"When I first came to Dallas District it was one of the best in the area, but now I see it as average. We need to have the desire to see education at the top level. The board is doing a good job but we need to get back to dedicated teaching and also get rid of some of the outside reasons."

Brown, teaching for Mrs. Cannon who will be out for the year, said he hopes the programs will be brought back.

"I was given no assurance by the superintendent that I would be called back next school year. I am teaching now by seniority and there was a position open."

"I like it at Dallas and I like the kids and I'm hoping and praying the district will bring back the programs and furloughed teachers," Brown said.

Brown said he is still the basketball coach since he didn't resign but hasn't yet made up his mind whether he will continue.

"There's more to coaching than recruiting. You have to give time to work with the program. When I was at the high school I was free at lunch and during my prep period. I could make phone calls concerning the team. I stayed with the program this summer but I haven't made up my mind. I expected more support from the board."

Brown is still getting used to teaching at a different level than he was accustomed to, and the change in his available time.

"Teaching elementary is different than high school. I don't have the time to talk with the kids during the day. I'm concerned about the program on the part of the kids and their parents. I'm uncomfortable whether or not I can be effective with the kids since I don't have enough free time to talk with them and show them films."

"Some of the kids have come to

me and said they were not going out for the team if I decide not to coach and I hate to see the kids not taking advantage of participating in sports. I have to make up my mind soon," Brown said.

Brown and Storz are filling in for two of eight teachers in the Dallas District who are on sabbatical leave this year.

Superintendent Gerald Wycallis, when questioned whether sabbaticals would cost the district more money, explained that it probably would not.

"Mrs. Storz and Mr. Brown are two of the teachers at the lower level of the salary scale. Even though teachers were furloughed they continue to receive their fringe benefits which are as much or probably more than the sabbatical salary which is approximately half of their regular salary. According to the teachers' agreement, 10 percent of the teachers are eligible for sabbatical each year."

"Since several of the teachers on

sabbatical this year are on the highest or nearly highest level, it's an even wash since the money paid to Storz and Brown are paid from the funds not paid to the sabbaticals," Wycallis explained.

Wycallis said he couldn't answer the question whether or not the programs dropped from the schedule this year would be reinstated next year and the furloughed teachers called back.

"That is up to the board to decide. If our request for a waiver to the Department of Education allowing us to keep the additional \$130,000 we received instead of rebating it to the taxpayers is approved, that money may be used for only two reasons-bringing back programs that were cut or purchasing supplies and equipment that were cut. If we bring back the programs we will need the teachers," Wycallis said.

"That decision is up to the board. They will have to study the best choice and vote on it," he explained.

Deaf

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Commonwealth Court of Appeals handed down a decision in favor of the boy attending SSD but the school district has appealed that decision in Federal Court.

Dorothy Rubel, Mark's grandmother, asked the board, "Why has the district refused the family's request that in the interim Mark be allowed to attend SSD while the district's case in appeal? Federal guidelines stipulate proper age and grade level placement. Why is Mark not getting the proper education?" Board members did not respond to her questions.

Susan Davis, a student of Rubel's at Bloomsburg, asked the board, "What if Mark were your son? In the class he is in now he has no friends, no one to talk with. Would you want that for your child?"

Rubel asked the board numerous times why it hadn't provided an interpreter for the meeting. "We conformed to the statement made by Attorney Savage at the last meeting that the district must be notified at least one week in advance and we did that but there is no interpreter here," Rubel said.

The board solicitor replied that he didn't believe the law requires the district to provide an interpreter unless Dutton is on the agenda and it relates to academic or discipline items.

Rubel and another interpreter present proceeded to act as interpreters for the Dutton family and friends at the meeting, then presented the board with a bill for

"Mark's studies have regressed since he has been placed in the LIU 18 class."

Don Rubel
Mark Dutton's uncle

services at Tuesday's meeting and at past meetings.

Rubel then presented a copy of a letter written by Mrs. Dutton to Nancy Davis, superintendent of the district, in which she stated that her brother had informed Dr. Boston that she would be attending every board meeting until further notice and that she would require the services of a qualified sign language interpreter.

The letter also stated that she had requested that she be sent a copy of the minutes of all school

board meetings held within the last year as well as special meetings scheduled since July, 1990.

"We are asking for nothing more than what is the law," said Rubel. "If you think my sister is going away, if you believe she will leave the Lake-Lehman School District, you are mistaken. She and her family own property here and are taxpayers and will continue to attend all of the board meetings. We will be at every meeting," Rubel concluded.

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