

# Hearing nixed for principal

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

The Birmingham Board of Education has referred charges of incompetence against an elementary school principal to Supt. Roger Garvelink for investigation.

A committee of Franklin Elementary School parents submitted a list of 16 detailed charges against Principal Wesley Messel to the board last month with a request for a hearing to discuss them.

But the board decided in closed session Tuesday not to hold a hearing and to refer the charges to Garvelink.

A letter to Fred Morganroth, chairman of the Franklin committee, was drafted by the board during the closed session and read when the board returned to the regular meeting.

"We have confidence that Dr. Garvelink and his staff will handle this matter in the best interests of all concerned," the letter said.

THE LETTER also said the board had "not tried to judge the validity of the charges."

"It is our belief that citizen discontent and/or appreciation should be a vital part of a principal's evaluation," the letter continued.

"Dr. Messel's most recent evaluation was satisfactory. However, your charges are to be considered in the current evaluation process."

A consultant from Ann Arbor has been hired to "deal with communications" and work with the staff relative to the issue, Garvelink said.

The arrangement is "an extended commitment" and will include a half day of inservice with the consultant and the staff, he added.

"My objective is to support and assist Wes Messel and the staff," Garvelink said. He also said he did not foresee any staff changes at Franklin School in the near future.

"I AM sadly disappointed that the board has not seen fit to give proper treatment to the seriousness of this matter," Morganroth said Wednesday

morning after receiving the board's letter.

"I intend to call an immediate meeting of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) board and the Community Task Force to determine what further action we intend to take."

"I am dissatisfied and intend to seek further relief," he added.

Morganroth said he received a letter from Garvelink recently indicating that two psychologists from Ann Arbor had been retained to "assist the principal at Franklin School with regard to problems with the community."

"We resent the taxpayers having to pay for this type of service when the problem is best solved by correcting the situation directly," he said.

SPECIFIC MATERIAL contained in the written charges against Messel have not been seen by the board, contained in a 25-page document submitted to the board of education on Sept. 15.

Board President Sylvia Whitmer termed the charges "unprecedented" and a move which would require "very careful consideration on the part of the board."

The board's first decision was whether or not to hear the charges and that was resolved Tuesday by referring them to Garvelink.

In a letter to all residents of the Franklin School attendance area, written Sept. 19, the committee outlined grounds to that time.

The letter mentioned the declining enrollment problem at Franklin School but noted that the problem was "not only due to the lack of children to fill the school."

"It is also due to the parents' other frustrations in not having their problems handled promptly, candidly and effectively by the school principal, Dr. Wesley Messel, resulting in complaints of an inferior educational facility," the letter said.

The letter termed the charges a "regrettable" action but said the committee had no other choice.

## Pool open at Mercy

The pool at Mercy Center is now open for drop-in guests at 75 cents an hour at specified times during the week.

Open swimming hours are from 8-9 p.m. Monday; 10-11 a.m. Tuesday; 10-11 a.m. and 8:15-9 p.m. Wednesday; noon to 1 p.m. Saturday; and 4-5 p.m. Sunday.

Some lanes will be blocked for distance swimmers. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Guests are asked to enter the complex from gate 4. The center is located at 28200 Eleven Mile.

# Arrested cop freed on bond

A Michigan State Police trooper charged with kidnapping a woman at gunpoint from Northland Shopping Center was released from jail on personal surety bond Tuesday.

The \$100,000 bond imposed on Det. Sgt. Gary James Schaeffer remains in effect but the defendant did not have to post any cash bond to win release.

Schaeffer's wife and brother signed cash obligating them to pay the \$100,000 bond if Schaeffer does not appear in court Monday.

Nov. 6 for his preliminary examination before Judge S. James Clarkson in 48th District Court.

Clarkson accepted the personal surety in lieu of a corporate surety which would have required payment of a premium to an insurance company.

Clarkson explained that the defendant was entitled to the personal surety bond release because of his lack of prior conviction, family ties and steady income with the state police.

However, Schaeffer, 34, of South Lyon, was formally suspended without pay from the force Monday and relieved of all police powers. The 10-year veteran of the state police received the formal suspension Monday at an administrative hearing in Lansing.

If Schaeffer is acquitted or charges are dropped, he will have to appear before a state police trial board before his pay and police powers can be reinstated, said Capt. Leo J. Heatley, commanding officer

of the state police criminal investigation section.

Schaeffer worked under Heatley in the criminal investigation section of the Michigan State Police at an office in the National Guard Artillery Armory, 15000 W. Eight Mile, Oak Park.

The office is located approximately 1/2-mile away from the Northland Shopping Center. According to Capt. Heatley, Schaeffer worked at the artillery armory until 5 p.m. Friday.

## Special gifts luncheon to honor Sadie Cohen

Mrs. Irwin (Sadie) Cohen will be honored at a special gifts luncheon hosted by the Bnai Brith Women's Council of Metropolitan Detroit. The event is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 9 at the Tam O' Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield.

With her attorney husband, Irwin I. Cohen, the honoree is active in the Jewish community and many other communal organizations.

A special guest at the luncheon will be Yecheskel Cohen, director of the Bnai Brith Women's Organization's Children's Home in Israel. Cohen is touring this country on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the home, an institution for the treatment of emotionally troubled young people.

The special gifts luncheon is part of the Youth Services Appeal Campaign which began early in September and supports the many projects of Bnai Brith Women all over the world.

Luncheon chairperson is Mrs. Andrew Berger. Reservations for the luncheon can be made by calling the Bnai Brith office in Southfield at 358-0146.



SADIE COHEN

## Telegraph work sparks legal charge

Like the anchorman in the movie "Network," Joe Dovey is mad as hell. And the Franklin resident says he's not going to take it anymore.

Since late August, Dovey and some of his neighbors in the Dorchester Hills subdivision have been at odds with construction crews and highway engineers working on the widening of Telegraph Road.

At the crux of the dispute is a huge iron ball used to break up old pavement between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Mile roads. Last week, residents, angered over damage to their homes allegedly caused by the incessant pounding of the iron ball, took the contractor, L.W. Edison Co. to Oakland County Circuit Court.

Judge Steven Andrews sided with the residents, issuing a temporary order banning further destruction of pavement and requiring the parties to appear again Thursday for another hearing.

Dovey estimated damage to his home at \$15,000-\$20,000 and said some of his neighbors, five of whom have joined in his suit, have similar problems.

"I've got a broken driveway, cracked footings and busted brickwork," said Dovey. "I want the pavement to remain (intact) until I can bring in consulting engineers and put them on the stand to prove they did damage."

Dovey said if this isn't possible in his current suit, he will file another one to pay for the alleged damages.

The Franklin resident took matters into his own hands last month.

"They shut it down when I jumped on a bulldozer and a police officer threatened me with arrest," he said.

Dovey wasn't arrested, but state highway department engineers agreed to run some vibration analysis tests the following week.

The highway department has since ceased using the iron ball and the contractor, according to Dovey, agreed to remove remaining pavement with a special saw.

He wants assurance, however, that the pounding won't begin again and he said the only way to get that is with a court order.

Judge Andrews told the residents he understood what their complaints were all about, Dovey noted.

## TENNIS LESSON #1

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