

Salary rate disputed

Last September was a trying time for the teachers and students when teachers and school board could not agree on the teachers' contracts.

Roseville Area Schools adopted conditions of a new salary scale for the 1969-70 school year at the August 14 school board meeting.

The scale was based on a majority report signed by two members of the adjustment board which was formed under a state law outlining a procedure for teacher-school board contract talks.

Representatives of the Roseville teachers claim that the majority report is vastly one-sided in favor of the school board, and feel that its findings should be set aside and that new negotiations between teachers and school board members should begin.

The school board, however, feels that by resuming direct teacher-board negotiations, which originally took place last November through February, they would be recycling the law and thereby weakening it.

"We don't feel that we are going in circles or re-cycling the law at all," stated teachers' representative William Rosselit. "We feel we are going a step beyond what the law covers. We are bending over backwards not to break the law."

Superintendent Dr. Lloyd Neilson said about the teacher's proposal, "Some changes take time. If you don't use the vehicles set down by the institution for these changes then you hazard the institution itself."

In an interview with William Rosselit and Robert Thompson, another teachers' representative, doubt was cast about the neutrality of the third

member of the adjustment panel, who was supposed to be completely unbiased upon entering the negotiations. "Let's put it this way--if we had it to do over again we wouldn't have accepted (Judge Harold) Schultz as the third man.

Judge Schultz, however, said that he had no feelings whatsoever in connection with the teacher-school board dispute until after about 20 meetings with the adjustment panel and personal research over documents which both sides had turned over to him.

"I read the facts as they were presented to me and then tried to the best of my ability to apply them to a fair and honest settlement," said the judge.

To protest the board's refusal to open direct teacher-school board talks, teachers have resigned as advisers to extra-curricular activities.

Judge Schultz questions the motives of some of the teachers in holding back extra-curricular services. "I find it very incongruous to say education shouldn't be interrupted and then stop all the students' activities."

Dr. Neilson commented in a similar manner. "I deplore the activity cutback and find it contrary to the commitments of educational traditions."

Rosselit stated it this way: "I think both parties concerned are interested in the betterment of the students and the district, and we do not want any negative effect on the students, but this may be the best object lesson on how things are handled in real life."

Said Thompson, "All we can say is, our differences with the board are small but important."



Teachers picket photo fred wolf

Chain of events leads to walk-out AND IT ALL STARTED WITH HOMECOMING

Emotions hit a peak when students walked out of classes these are the events which led to the walk-out.

At a senior class float meeting held during the first week of school, senior Craig Bakken informed students that the teachers represented an obstacle to Homecoming. Without their consent, many of the festivities would be cancelled.

On Tuesday of the following week, Lynn Anderson, Homecoming chairman, decided to call off Homecoming. Principal Curtis Johnson declined to let her use the public address system to inform the students.

Johnson met with Lynn and other Homecoming officials the next day to persuade them not to call off Homecoming. It was agreed that a representative group of students would be chosen to meet and decide what to do.

Heads of activities and other randomly chosen students were called out of class to go down to the guidance office on Wednesday. This group met in the gym and decided to prepare a statement for Thursday night's school board meeting.

The next day this group met again and chose senior Kevin

Conner as the student body's delegate to the board meeting. They also wrote up the speech he was to give.

Kevin rendered his statement at the board meeting, threatening that "we will employ your (teachers and board's) level of tactics," if an agreement wasn't reached soon. The students or "bleacher section" as one parent termed it, gave him a standing ovation.

Friday morning ushered in a student lyceum featuring James Bonkowski as the teacher's representative, and Dr. Lloyd Neilson as the board's representative. This lyceum was to inform the students of the position the negotiations had reached. A student panel questioned the men after they finished speaking. Several students walked out during this time causing a disturbance in the bleachers.

Approximately fifteen minutes after the students were dismissed to class, Johnson called them back to the gym.

As the students assembled in the bleachers and on the floor, Johnson attempted to quiet them down. His attempts were in vain so he handed senior Barb Metzger the microphone and instructed her to "quiet them." Barb used the occasion to pro-

Pay dispute ends

The teachers and the school board reached agreement on this year's salary schedule on September 29.

The board offered the teachers a proposal on September 22 which met all their demands. This offer was rejected by teachers because the pay increase was not made retroactive as the teachers wanted, and would take effect only from August 1.

claim a sit in. In the confusion that followed athletes were called to the locker room, cheerleaders were advised to stay away from the gym, and some students went back to class.

But the majority of the student body remained in the gym. Dr. Dale Johnson, assistant dis-

trict superintendent, and William Rosselit, Ramsey teacher, made a futile attempt to persuade the renegades back to class.

At approximately 10:30 a.m. the administration called for the school buses to come and school was officially dismissed.

After the bargaining, exchanged words and student walk-outs the dispute was settled.

Opposing forces agree

But about a week later, teachers reconsidered and accepted the board's offer.

As a result of negotiation difficulties this year, the teachers and the school board have written up a statement concerning future negotiations.

Two important points are included in the statement:

1. During any action between the school board and the

teachers, all efforts will be made to avoid involvement of students.

2. Teacher representatives will exercise the right to inform all other teachers of any factors concerning negotiations.

When asked if he thought students were in any way responsible for the settlement, Superintendent Dr. Lloyd Neilson said "It was the concern of all parties involved that brought an end to the situation."



Students leave classes to protest the teachers' withholding action.

photo fred wolf

Harriet Jordan resigns school board

Mrs. Harriet Jordan, who recently resigned from the District 623 school board, calls working in education the most exciting thing she has ever done.

After much thought, but with no misgivings, Mrs. Jordan submitted her resignation Sept. 11 in protest of the board's decision to increase their salary offer to teachers. Teachers had previously rejected an offer based on a report by an adjustment panel.

She felt that the adjustment panel's report provided an adequate increase in salaries. "And," she added, "I can think of no other profession where there is a guaranteed annual increase in pay. If I had it to do over," she added, "I'd do it again."

Mrs. Jordan felt that it was very unprofessional for the teachers to carry their dispute into the classrooms. But she says that students may have learned a little, mainly about mob control.

During the Ramsey sit-in someone on stage had yelled, "We wanna stay, don't we?" Someone else had yelled, "We wanna go, don't we?" Both times the crowd yelled back, "Yea!"

Mrs. Jordan had served on the school board for seven and one-half years.

Although retired, she will always be interested in education, and pledges to do all she can for it. Not to be involved in it, she feels, "would be like not living."