

Grove establishes Equal Education Commission

FOREST GROVE. — School District 15 Board of Directors June 9 established an advisory 12-member Equal Education Opportunity Commission.

Formation of the Commission had been in planning stages during the past six months, but was speeded by the May 10 study of alleged discrimination in district schools by the state Dept. of Education.

Findings of the state study, requested by the Board, commended plans to recruit teachers from minority groups, but criticized the district for not proceeding with "an ongoing, systematic recruiting effort . . ."

The study also acknowledged a review during the past four years conducted to identify the academic needs of Spanish-speaking students. However, the report stated the one special class created to meet those needs "indicates the district has not developed a comprehensive plan to meet the needs of all students."

The state team also directed the district to devise a method to categorize students in one of five linguistic groups ranging from English-speaking only to Spanish-speaking only, and to cater "individualized instructional programs" to students until they are able to be taught in English.

Instead of volunteering to give the district more money to help accomplish the additional work load mandated by the state body, it threatened to withhold state basic school support funds unless a written plan for compliance is completed within 90 days.

The 12-member Commission created by the Board Thursday is required by the state to comprise six Spanish-speaking persons. The Commission's constitution, bylaws and membership must be approved by the Board.

"A make-up of 50-50 is not representative of the community," said Board member Ron DeLude. "It's a community problem and I would like to see the Commission be representative of the community."

"We're going to have to comply with

state law regardless of the make-up of the Commission."

D. Herb Armstrong, superintendent of schools, said, "It's going to have to be people who can work together and trust each other. If we have a Commission that will line up on opposite sides of the table we're never going to get anywhere."

For help in devising a method of selecting the new Commission's membership, the Board approved a staff request for aid from Portland State University General Assistance Center (GAC).

"What can GAC do that we can't do?" inquired Board Chairman Jim Doyle.

"They have the experience in doing this sort of thing," Armstrong answered.

The aid from GAC will be free of charge, Armstrong said.

New state requirements include a directive to document interview and screening procedures used in hiring teachers.

"If they want documentation, they'll get documentation," said Board member Brent Caldwell. "I don't want to be behind this eight-ball again."

Following the May 26 adoption of revised graduation requirements, the Board adopted 106 competency requirements.

In addition to earning 22½ credits, high school students must demonstrate ability to perform designated tasks, understand basic theories and communicate with others before they will be allowed to graduate.

Examples of competency requirements are:

- The student will know the energy transfer in an ecosystem.
- The student will write sentences containing all necessary elements.
- The student will define his basic rights and responsibilities in the American system.
- The student will demonstrate correct job application procedures.

The Board approved a contract with the Washington County Intermediate

Education District (IED) through which \$48,200 of federal funds has been allocated to District 15 for the Title I-Migrant (I-M) program for the 1977-78 school year.

Title I-M is a federal program providing school districts with funds to teach children of families living in an area less than five years.

The money will be used to hire a teacher for the elementary level and one for the junior high school level, three teaching aides and one home/school consultant.

The home/school consultant directs needy families to helpful agencies and tries to find places in students' homes conducive to study.

Currently the district employs a teacher, two aides and a home/school consultant.

New Title I-M employes will be hired subject to receipt of the federal money.

In other business, the Board approved a group dental insurance plan for certified personnel and a group life insurance plan for administrators.

OSU students receive awards

Three area students in the school of agriculture at Oregon State University have received scholarship awards, according to Dean Wilbur T. Cooney.

Amanda Carter, sophomore majoring in food science, received a \$1,000 award from the Institute of Food Technologists.

Randy Owens, Aloha, entering freshman planning to major in production horticulture, received the \$250 Clackamas Chapter of Oregon Assn. of Nurserymen scholarship.

Matthew Unger, Cornelius, senior in agronomic crop science, received a \$400 Tulana Farms scholarship.

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