

Stratford School Board Urged to Reopen SEA Pact to Weigh Girl Coaches' Salaries

By **RAOUL BATALLER**

STRATFORD — The Board of Education will consider a recommendation of a committee headed by Schools Supt. John Olha at its regular meeting Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Stony Brook school to reopen talks with the Stratford Education association on girls coaches salaries.

However, a spokeswoman for the coaches has said revisions in salaries should be made without further bargaining.

The negotiations are suggested in a report of a committee on athletics regarding the board's obligations under Title IX's federal ban against sex discrimination. The panel has not completed work on policy recommendations and its report on existing programs, but shows progress made.

Under the new teachers' contract for 1974-76 most coaches of boys sports earn substantially more than coaches of girls sports. For example, in senior high school, the head basketball coach earns \$800 the first year, \$960 the second, and \$1,150 thereafter, while the girls basketball coach earns \$350 the first year, \$420 the second, and \$500 thereafter. Not all sports reflect such differences. The boys tennis coach earns the same as the girls coach.

Committee Formed

Questions regarding these discrepancies arose in the closing stages of arbitrated contract negotiations, too late to be resolved. The girls coaches subsequently approached the board to claim that the new federal Title IX guidelines protect them from such apparently discriminatory salary schedules.

The reaction was to form a committee including Mr. Olha, coaches Robert Eisenberg, Barbara Hall, Philip Nessand Gary Schmidlin, Athletics Director Raymond Needham, the

Stratford High school assistant principal, Mary Riley, school board members Katherine O'Connor and William Carroll, Bunnell Principal Walter Dunbar, SEA president Vincent Faggella, and Leigh Dickson.

The committee met three times and concluded that "Since the question of salaries is a negotiable item with the Stratford Education association, the committee recommends that the Board of Education undertake the immediate task of negotiating a revised 1974-76 salary schedule for all sports, which would be in compliance with federal and state legislation."

'Differences Are Illegal'

A consultant for the girls coaches has urged that a new salary schedule be adopted "that brings the salaries of coaches of girls sports up to the level of salaries of coaches of boys sports, and therefore brings the Board of Education into compliance with the law in this instance."

The consultant, Susan Meredith, said the board should grant the revisions "because differences are illegal and cannot be a result of salary negotiations."

Two companion parts of the report deal with existing programs of girls athletics and the development of a new board policy on sports.

Wide Differences

"The committee realizes that the girls varsity sports program must be upgraded to the level of existing programs; and the future of the total athletic program be fully evaluated in terms of student interest, facilities, equipment and adequate funding."

The boys have nine varsity sports, and the girls have four, and one varsity sport is co-ed, while junior high programs include two boys varsity sports.

"Therefore," the report con-

tinues, "as first priority, the committee has sought to give consideration to the addition of the following sports to the girls' varsity athletic program: senior high school spring track, fall volleyball and winter junior varsity basketball, and junior high school spring softball and winter basketball."

Periodic Surveys

The committee also recommended that cheerleading on the senior high level become a co-ed activity.

Some of the sports suggested by the panel have not been surveyed. Title IX provides that periodic surveys be conducted to show how the students feel about particular sports, and their access to such sports.

Some reports have come from a group of girls who are active softball players at Wooster Junior High school indicating that they would make use of softball facilities, but little is known of the interest in senior high school junior varsity basketball, and the committee plans to look further into this.

Policy Is Outlined

The development of a new policy is also continuing along lines as follows:

"The policy of the Board of Education in the area of competitive athletics is to provide equal opportunity for both male and female students on all levels.

"Where selection is based on competitive skill, athletics may be provided through separate teams for males and females or through a single team open to both sexes. Provisions should be made for teams to compete on comparable levels of competition, such as varsity, JV, and so forth.

"To inform all students of the availability of equal opportunity to participate.

Providing Support

"To determine, periodically, in

what sports students desire to participate.

"To provide support, such as equipment, supplies, facilities, officials, transportation, medical care and insurance to enable students to participate.

"To provide competent, qualified coaches.

"To ensure equal opportunity for the use of facilities without discrimination on the basis of sex, such as separate locker rooms, showers, and toilets for each sex.

"The Athletic associations' budgets are an integral part of the total financial support of the school system's athletic programs. To allocate appropriated Board of Education funds and athletic association funds in the most efficient and equitable manner, budgets for both appropriated funds and association funds should provide financial support for sports in accordance with student interest and participation and in a manner consistent with the principles of equal opportunities."

Elephants Cost More Than Autos for Tolls

MIAMI (UPI) — An automobile may cross Miami's Venetian causeway to Miami Beach for a dime—but an elephant can't.

It costs 75 cents for an elephant and 17 of them led the annual trek of the Ringling Brothers, Barnum & Bailey circus Wednesday afternoon from the mainland railroad terminal across the causeway to the Miami Beach Convention hall.

The toll takers also charged 30 cents a head for the horses and camels, 25 cents each for the large caged lions, tigers, bears and the like, and 15 cents for the smaller animals.

"All together, the bill came to a little over \$62," said one toll booth attendant.