

Twp. Board To Close *Thurs Feb 4/65* Four 1-Room Schools

RIDGEWAY — Bertie Township area joint school board Tuesday night resolved to close schools, 6, 8, 14, 13 and the class at the fire hall in School section 4 at the end of the current school year, providing the class average does not exceed 35. All the schools listed are one room for grades 1 to 3 and the class at the fire hall is an overflow from the Garrison Road school in section 4.

No announcement was made as to the eventual plans for students at these schools.

In a lengthy meeting which adjourned shortly before midnight, many matters came before the board in the first meeting at the new board rooms. Six taxpayers attended as observers. Jim Sibbald was in the chair and all members were in attendance, also J. R. Graham, public schools inspector and secretary treasurer William Kieffer.

Approval was given for Brock Founding Fund to canvass teaching staffs in the township and a payroll deduction plan was also approved.

There was some discussion of the insurance plan now covering students and the board will contact the Frank Cowan Agency, insurance brokers for the township, to arrange a meeting for the purpose of discussing the policies.

The board members approved a plan to join the Ontario School Trustees and Ratepayers Association, and through this will be affiliated with the Ontario School Trustees Council.

Permission was given to Garrison Road and Stevensville public schools to attend the Kiwanis Music Festival in Niagara Falls. Schools were also granted permission to attend the music appreciation programs at Kleinhan's Music Hall, Buffalo. This latter program is under the guidance of the music teacher, Mrs. Leola Baer.

Current accounts totalling \$687.56 were approved for payment Mr. Kieffer said other accounts are obviously due but are presently in the auditor's offices and could not be dealt with at this meeting. The school budget was discussed and Mr. Graham advised that grants would be approximately the same as those received last year.

There was some discussion of the auxiliary teacher, G. Mulholland, and the board decided it would be necessary to hire another itinerant teacher in order to give satisfactory coverage to the whole township.

Keen disappointment was expressed that the recommendation that an attendance counsellor be hired had been turned down by neighboring municipalities and the board will look into the hiring of an attendance officer.

Board secretary, W. Kieffer, has announced the offices above the Canadian Imperial Bank in Ridgeway will be open daily from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.



MEETING for the first time in the new board rooms above the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Ridgeway, on Tuesday night, the Bertie Township Area Joint School

Board decided to close four one-room schools, overcrowding of other schools is not necessitated. Seated, left to right, are Osmund Chambers, Dr. H. P. Macey, chairman, J. G.

Sibbald, and secretary-treasurer William Kieffer. Standing are public schools inspector J. R. Graham, Donald Grinham, Arthur Johnston and John Gibson.

Photo by PAUL KASSAY JR.