

Board Demotes 80 Teachers

Takes Action Against Elderly Employees, Despite Protests

Ignoring protest that the action amounted to using an ax on some capable instructors, the Board of Education yesterday demoted to part-time service or granted payless leaves of absence to 80 elderly public school teachers and principals, most of them 75 years or older.

The drastic changes, most far-reaching that could be recalled in the history of the schools, were recommended by Acting Superintendent of Instruction George L. Hawkins to comply in a measure with recommendations of the Strayer survey last year that several hundred supernumerary teachers be retired on pensions.

They were approved by the board by a 5-to-3 vote after Daniel Bartlett, attorney, and several board members criticized as a grave mistake such harsh action on short notice which removed many educational figures, well known to St. Louisans for many years, from active professional life, pending a retirement plan.

NO FAVORITISM

Hawkins, who personally knows most of those affected, denied favoritism entered into the action. "Friendship is not my duty," he said. "If it was there wouldn't be much action taken. Those put on limited service at \$1000 a year were not entirely efficient to the extent of their maximum salaries and from the standpoint of modern instruction. Children's interests demand the mental and physical vigor of younger instructors."

Sixty-five teachers, drawing top salaries of \$2700 in the grade schools and \$4000 in the high schools, were reduced to limited service of 40 hours monthly. Ten principals also were reduced from \$5000 a year to \$1900 and several noninstructional employes were affected.

OTHER CHANGES

Other changes included appointment of W. N. Sellman, professor at Harris Teachers' College at \$3200 to be principal there at \$5500 and Miss Ruth Harris, Negro, chairman of Stowe Teachers' College Committee, was made principal of that school. Her salary was increased from \$5000 to \$5250. Sellman replaces Dr. C. C. Vannest, who was reduced from \$7000 a year to a \$4000 history teaching position at Beaumont High School.

John B. Quinn, chief attendance officer, who is above 70, was reappointed on a temporary basis because the new superintendent wants the attendance division left undisturbed until it can be reorganized.

Frank L. Williams, principal of Washon High School for Negroes at \$6000 a year was among the principals demoted to \$1900 a year. He is a member of Mayor Dickmann's Housing Authority.

Other principals reduced were L. W. Rader, Sherman School, and E. G. Shackelford, Clark, who formerly were assistant superintendents; F. E. Andrews, Marquette; Paul M. Miller, Mullinphy; C. L. Sampson, Humboldt; M. J. Gilliam, Negro, Waring; Anna M. Merriman, Hempstead; R. L. Short, Ashland, and James L. Osher, Jefferson.

TEACHERS DEMOTED

Teachers demoted are Teresa Finn, Soldan, well known to thousands of St. Louisans to whom she taught music; Katherine M. Byrne, Harris; George C. Lindsay, Roosevelt; Louis M. Kittlaus, Central gymnastic instructor; Leonora C. Nagle, Soldan; Cecile L. Hoopes, Roosevelt; Alice M. Connors, Walbridge; Ida Lee Sharp, Arlington, and W. J. E. Bryan, 77, librarian, who was the longest employe on the school pay roll with his 67 years' service.

Others demoted are: Florence E. Whitehead, Arlington; Jessie Patterson, Ashland; Addie G. Tandy, Baden; Clara G. Barton, Baden; Kate Durov, Benton; Estelrah P. Davis, Benton; Louise K. Connelman, Benton; Francis L. Hinchman, Blair; M. G. Le Dorre, Blair.

Alex. M. Carnahan, Froebel; Mary A. Flynn, Grant; Josephine Mante, Oak Hill; Tillie A. Hollmann, Gundlach; Elizabeth H. Mottler, Harrison; Laura Orest, Har-Home; Katherine Fletcher, Irving; Mary C. Irvine, Linton; C. Boston, Loretto; Marie Ryan, Mark Twain; Ada B. Cain, Mason; Julia M. Hayes, Wynewood; Edward G. War, Mason; Mary G. Clark, Fenwick; Della Crowe, Rose; Annie C. Steiner, South; Ida Allworth, Walbridge; Alice M. Collins, Walbridge; Lella Dawson, Walbridge; Katherine O'Halloran, City Center; Katherine O'Halloran, City Center; Nellie Agan, Homer; G. Holliday, Homer; and L. J. B. Macklin, Bellefontaine Farms.

E. G. Irish, supervisor of School Gardens; Dr. William H. Manstee, school physician, and Mrs. A. C. Maroney, Teaching Open Air School lunchroom, were non-instructional employes demoted to \$800 a year salary for 10 months service.

Hawkins said the following those a year's pay: Benjamin L. Lee, Shepard; Emily Dale, Dunbar; Cora V. Stewart, Beaumont; Lillian H. Hestwell, Central; Susannah Williams, Roosevelt; E. H. Murray, principal of Marx School; Annie E. Chedel, Rose; Linnie Schroeder, Clay; Louise C. Isaacs, Fenwick; Edith Magdon, Fenwick; Marjorie M. Ketchum, Wash-ington; Cora Ryan, Washington; Mary Norton, Harris; salaried drawing room view; Sarah H. Hutchins, Jefferson, and Julia M. Tupper, Monroe.

Hugo Wurdack, board member, expressed the opinion "it would