

Thomaston

Yaffe Recommends New Heads

THOMASTON (Special)—Dr. Marvin H. Yaffe, superintendent of schools, recommended the appointment of the additional department heads in Thomaston High School at a school board hearing Monday.

Dr. Yaffe, pointing to the recent evaluation of Thomaston High School and Herbert DeVerber, Thomaston High School principal in a survey of state department heads stated that an effective department head plays a large part in determining the character of high school education.

Kenneth Murdock, Thomaston's first school department head, has raised the level of science instruction, during the past two years Dr. Yaffe said by conducting after school department meetings, selection of textbooks, revising courses of study; requisitioning supplies; visiting classrooms, counseling pupils, aiding in the selection of teachers for the department and orientation of new teachers.

Dr. Yaffe recommended to the board that three more department heads be named, the selections based upon educational training and qualities of leadership.

A Master's Degree shall be required of all candidates for

the position of head of a department.

Recommended for appointments to the new positions are Mrs. Helen Platt, social science, Charles Holbrook, English and Robert Pingpank, mathematics in their respective fields for the next school year.

Dr. Yaffe recommended that secondary department heads may be appointed in special subject matter fields where six or more teachers are employed on a year to year assignment. In subject matter fields of fewer than five teachers, a temporary chairman may be appointed by the high school principal from year to year.

Among duties of department heads outlined by Dr. Yaffe would be the calling of periodic meetings of the department; supervising the work of the teachers in their departments; visiting classes, participating in district-wide curriculum meetings, assisting in the selection of the textbooks, keeping the principal informed of activities, being responsible for the selection and distribution of supplies, interpret rules and regulations, maintain and promote professional attitudes with the department and to assist

both the teachers in the department and the principal of the school.

Dr. Marvin H. Yaffe, recommended the hiring of three new teachers which were approved by the Board of Education, Monday night. They are Robert Pingpank, a former Thomaston mathematics teacher from 1959-1961, a graduate of Trinity College and who earned his M.A. at the University of Hartford in 1963. He has taught at Hamden Public School and is presently teaching at Cheshire Academy.

His assignment will be as mathematics teacher and mathematics department head.

Mrs. Brenda Murphy, a graduate of Lowell State Teachers College, Mass., in 1958 and who has done post graduate work at Danbury State College. She has taught in Franklin, N.H., Tilton, N.H., Naugatuck and at Penacook, N.H. She will teach grade 1 at Black Rock School.

The third teacher hired is Mrs. Dorothy Stephens, a graduate of the University of Conn. where she received her B.S. where she received her B.S. postgraduate work at Traphagen, N.Y. and has taken recent courses in development teaching, modern math and psychology of learning.