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School board will revote on curriculum changes

Matter was handled at closed session

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Responding to pressure from a lawsuit, the Community School Board will re-vote Monday on changes it already made to an HIV/AIDS curriculum at a previous meeting closed to public discussion.

Chairwoman Olivia Brennan

said the vote would be a repeat of the board's August 1993 action in a work session that barred public input. At that session, the members had altered the state's 1987 HIV/AIDS curriculum, which was outdated, to bring it into compliance with new state requirements for teaching about the disease.

The August vote is one of sev-

eral instances listed in a lawsuit filed by the Parents' Action Committee for Education (P.A.C.E.) that charges the board with stifling public input by holding such votes during work sessions instead of at public sessions. The board's bylaws require members to vote on policy during regular meetings, and the state Open Meetings Law stipulates that the board must record its votes.

No mention was made of why the board was voting again on the same topic, nor did the lawsuit come up during a work session last night at Laurie Intermediate School, New Springville. Members puzzled over exactly what changes were made at the August meeting, and Mrs. Brennan portrayed the vote only as an action the board should take to bring the curriculum into compliance.

Loretta Prisco, a member of P.A.C.E. who brought the suit, said after the meeting that it ap-

peared Mrs. Brennan had received some "sound legal advice" on the lawsuit and decided it would be in the board's best interests to re-vote during a public meeting. But P.A.C.E., which is represented by a national public interest group called People for the American Way, will not likely drop the state Supreme Court lawsuit it filed in May, she said.

"If they voted on the other three [issues], of course, we would have to get together and discuss dropping it," Mrs. Prisco said, adding that if the board hadn't voted publicly on them yet, it was unlikely to.

Another resolution expected to come before the board at the Monday public session at 8 p.m. in Laurie Intermediate School concerns using the Markham Intermediate School annex in Graniteville to house two grades from PS 22, Graniteville, until modernization to that school is done. The

sixth grade that is currently housed in the annex will be moved back to the main intermediate school under the resolution, according to board member Sal Ballarino. The modernization of PS 22 will take several years, and the exact grades that will be switched to the annex will be selected by PS 22's principal, Ballarino said.

Board secretary Jerry Cammarata last night announced his intention to run for chairman in the officers' elections, set to take place at the Monday meeting. Cammarata first hinted at it during last night's meeting by proposing the members unofficially agree to hold office for no more than two years. Mrs. Brennan, who has been chairwoman since 1990, did not react, but member Eleanor Conforti asked Cammarata flat out what he was proposing.

"Is this your short way of saying you're seeking chairmanship of the board?" she asked.

Cammarata said it was, and that member Robert Sacchi had told him he would like to run for vice chairman. No other members indicated they were interested in running for the remaining positions of secretary or treasurer.