

Board Lauds Committee On Schools

ARLINGTON — It was an evening of listening to reports and presentations and responding to correspondence for the Arlington County School Board last night as it heard a long awaited report on Thomas Jefferson School, watched a film presented by the Arlington Community Action Committee urging more community use of the local schools and announced the appointment of Miss Olivia Elder as principal of Taylor Elementary School for the coming year.

The Board expressed its gratitude for over six months of work by a citizen action committee charged with recommending future plans for 30-year-old Thomas Jefferson Junior High School plant before Dr. Ernest Saulmon tendered a report in which he asked for professional cost analysis of both renovation and new construction for a plant to house 1,300 students. The current enrollment at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School is 1,084 divided between two buildings.

DR. SAULMON asked for the analysis before submitting a final recommendation on either of the committee's two alternative findings.

School Board members agreed to look for funds during the current fiscal year in spite of the fact that all contingency funds have been exhausted by hospitalization and retirement benefits.

School Board vice-chairman Theodore Taylor gave high praise to the report tendered by the 12-member committee as the product of "the hardest working committee I have ever known." Taylor was present at all but two of the working sessions which the group held in five subcommittees between Nov. 9 of last year and last night's meeting.

He was joined by Dr. John Spicer who called the Thomas Jefferson study "an unusually orderly, businesslike, clear report." The committee chairman, Dr.

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one Board member estimated at \$7,500.

THE PLEA for architectural study funds climaxed over six months of study by a citizen's committee charged with identifying school needs at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School's 30-year-old building.

Following conclusions centered around the findings of five subcommittees whose tasks were to examine the present adequacy of the Thomas Jefferson building:

- A study of feasibility of using Thomas Jefferson and the annex building as dual junior high schools. (The present arrangement calls for the seventh grade to be housed in the annex along with overflow pupils from nearby Hoffman-Boston Elementary School.)

- Redistricting study to see if all Thomas Jefferson students could be housed in the main building at 816 Walter Reed Drive.

- Remodeling study to see if all present children, some 1,084, can be accommodated in the main Thomas Jefferson building.

- Examination of new plant construction and uses for present facilities.

Subcommittee reports began coming in during January after nearly two months of workshop meetings and research.

FINDINGS of the first three committees indicated in part that the main building is presently 344 students over capacity with 95 per cent of the usable 45,000 interior square feet utilized.

The total enrollment of the eighth and ninth grades housed in the building is 725. The 359 seventh graders all attend school in the annex. So do overflow school administration people and 50 or 60 crowded out Hoffman-

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Marijuana Ring Feared by Sheriff

LEESBURG (UPI) — Loudoun County Sheriff Robert W. Legard said today marijuana cigarettes had been found in the homes of several high school pupils here and he feared a ring operated in the local school.

Legard said juvenile petitions will be filed against an undetermined number of youths.

Legard disclosed no details of the operations of what he called a marijuana ring.