

# Dickinson May Don

## New Band Uniforms

DICKINSON—The Dickinson High School band's eight old uniforms may soon be replaced with more comfortable, more durable and more eye-appealing outfits. This is the desire of band director Vernon Coers, and also of four uniform companies who were invited to participate in exhibiting their wares at Monday night's meeting of the Dickinson School Board.

Shown to the board members and visitors present were several uniform styles. Reputedly the most popular, practical and versatile is an outfit made of a new fabric containing 55% Rayford Dacron Polyester and 45% pure virgin wool. It features a colorfully designed "overlay converter" which is put on over the jacket for marching, or omitted for functions calling for less blatant attire, such as stage concerts.

The overlay, a sleeveless front and back torso covering, may also be worn without the jacket underneath, an appealing feature for warm weather outdoor performances. In fact, the entire outfit, being constructed of 12 oz. fabric, is

a welcome warm weather improvement over the traditional 16 oz. wool whipcord uniforms which presently constitute the band's wardrobe.

One of the uniforms shown had been designed especially for the Dickinson band, bearing the school name and the blue & white gator colors. To heighten contrast and increase the uniform's suitability for more formal indoors functions the basic jacket and trouser color is black. It features a unique provision for waist-band size adjustment by means of a concealed horizontal, locking zipper. This would simplify the problem of making it possible for the same uniform to be worn by several different band members from year to year.

It was explained that the school board is at the present time merely shopping for information concerning new uniforms. The purpose of having Mr. Coers and the uniform manufacturing representatives at this meeting was not to form the basis for an immediate decision to purchase, but rather to get ideas on styles, fabrics and prices to form the basis for specifications, to be drawn up by Mr. Coers so that bids can be invited at a later date. There was conjecture, however, that action may be taken on the matter at the March meeting of the board.

Indications were that prices would be in the neighborhood of \$90 per uniform. Mr. Coers said that if the purchase is approved, the initial order would be for 150 uniforms. Although there are only 64 students in the band this year, a much larger number is anticipated when the school system switches from the present three-year high school to a four-year high school system.

This change, from the "six-three-three" grades system to a "five-three-four" system is expected to be put into effect next year, according to Acting Superintendent Philip B. Carona.

The board authorized Mr. Coers go ahead and draw up specifications based on the Dickinson band uniform sample shown, and then to send bid invitations to various uniform manufacturers.

Dickinson Band Director Vernon V. Coers displays sample uniform. The proposed eye-catching new uniform design features a removable "overlay converter" and is made of a fabric which it is claimed is more durable and at the same time is lighter weight and more comfortable than uniforms of the past. The band's present uniforms are eight years old.

