

Board Beefs Up Band Staff

DICKINSON — The way was paved last week for a bigger, better sounding, snappier, flashier, more versatile Gator band for the coming sch-

Purchase Of Gator Band Uniforms OK'd

DICKINSON — School band director Vernon V. Coers reported to the Dickinson School Board last week that the sample uniform submitted for school approval by Fruhauf Southwest Company had passed an evaluation by Miss Toni Bradbury, High School Homemaking teacher, Mrs. Sam Scarcella, a professional seamstress in Dickinson, and Coers himself.

Fruhauf was one of two low bidders on new uniforms needed by the school band. Both firms submitted sample uniforms. Coers said that they had both been ripped apart in many places and thoroughly tested and inspected for strength at wear points, for tailoring, and for type of material and thread used.

Asked by one of the board members how the school could be assured that the uniforms ordered will be of the same quality as the sample, Coers said that the sample uniform will be kept, and when the new uniforms are delivered the home economics teacher will make a careful comparison with the sample. In the unlikely event that the new ones were inferior, presumably they would be refused.

The board unanimously passed a motion to purchase the uniforms from Fruhauf.

The uniforms which the band is presently using are over eight years old. The new uniforms feature a removable, eye-catching, high contrast overlay to be worn when the band performs at sport events. Removal of this overlay leaves a more subdued uniform which is suitable for stage wear, such as concerts.

ool year in Dickinson. Action was taken at last Thursday's meeting of the school trustees to beef up the music department in manpower and in quality to meet an anticipated increase in the number of students participating in the band, and to assure a suitable musical adjunct to a championship football team.

Acting Superintendent Philip B. Carona said that he expects the band to double in size. The band now has approximately 65 members, he said. With such a relatively small number participating, he continued, the competitive factor is inadequate to impel mediocre members to improve their ability. The result, he said, is a band which does not sound as good as it could and should.

With 150 members in the band, Carona explained, you can be more selective — you insist that they work and meet certain musical standards if they want to stay in. Many schools, he added, have an A and a B band.

With the new staff Carona said that it would be possible to make instruction available paced for various individual needs, fast for some and slower for others. He added that the school conceivably could have a stage band, a brass choir, a woodwind choir and sixteen well coordinated Gatorettes, capable of competing in marching contests.

Hired on a ten month contract was Roland Brinkley, a music teacher with four years' experience who Carona said has directed bands which have placed in class I Division, and is one of the finest twirlers in the United States.

Brinkley was hired to head Intermediate Bands, to assist in the direction of the High School band and to direct the 16-member Gatorette Drill Team.

The music department for the coming year also will comprise Robert McMurrey, Assistant to Intermediate Bands and to the High School Band, and Vernon Coers, the present Director of the High School Band.