

## TODAY'S DIGEST

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Board balks on school-use requests

**WEBSTER - Two requests by outside groups for the use of school facilities were tabled by the School Committee Tuesday.**

**Straight Inc., of Stoughton, sought permission to use the Bartlett High School cafeteria for a fund-raiser March 10, and Landmark Baptist Church, located at Colonial Park, asked for any suitable facility May 5 for a worship and law enforcement appreciation program.**

**Straight Inc., is a drug counseling or drug rehabilitation service, panelists were told. Cosmetics and other products would be sold in conjunction with the benefit. "I really don't want to deny it," said member Darleen Socha, asking whether use of the school cafeteria would be "lending our name" to the program. "Do we let any organization come in and do a fund-raiser?"**

**Socha and others asked for more information about Straight Inc.**

The church worship and law enforcement proposal was tabled because the committee was not given any idea how many people might attend the activity. Use of a public school facility for a worship service was also questioned. Superintendent of Schools Anthony L. D'Acchioli said he consulted the school board lawyer on the request. Groups may worship in a school building "so long as it is not on a continual basis," he said.

Sturbridge firefighters win union bid

**STURBRIDGE - The state Labor Relations Commission has upheld a request by the full-time firefighters to have its union be its bargaining agent.**

A spokeswoman at the commission said yesterday a letter was mailed Feb. 19 to the town informing them of the decision. She said if the town challenges it, then an election would be called in which the firefighters would be asked to vote on the matter.

Charles T. Blanchard, selectmen chairman, said the matter was discussed in executive session Monday night and he could not comment on what the town's reply might be.

Last year, the firefighters asked to have Local 3121, International Association of Fire Fighters recognized as its bargaining unit. The firefighters have been in the union since 1986 but had been bargaining collectively on their own.

Fire Capt. Edward G. Bourassa said the town rejected the request and a hearing was held late last year before a hearing officer. He said the request is to have the union represent the three full-time firefighters. The chief, who is also full-time, would not be included. Bourassa said one main objective of the firefighters is to secure a written contract, something they do not have.

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