

# Ed Board to Review Anti-Miller Charges

**BRIDGEPORT** — A public hearing to review complaints registered against Duane Miller will be conducted by the Bridgeport Board of Education at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the superintendent's office in the elementary school building.

Miller, hired as superintendent of Bridgeport Schools in January, was notified by letter by the board May 12 of 17 complaints against him and his suspension from his duties.

Some of the complaints against Miller filed with the board, according to Harry Dean, board president, include allegations of suspension of a high school principal without having the authority to do so; suspending a student when the board had not adopted the policy under which the student was suspended; manipulating school staff members for personal gain; and causing a breakdown of trust among the faculty and staff by agitating teachers against one another.

**ACCORDING TO** complaints from school personnel, Miller allegedly stated at a staff meeting that if a teacher went to the board over troubles at school that teacher would be suspended or wish he or she had been.

Also, some staff members contend, Miller kept the school in a state of agitation and turmoil.

The 17 complaints will be presented at the public hearing and Miller will be allowed to respond. Miller, Dean said, is permitted to be accompanied by counsel.

"My only comment at this time," Miller said Friday, "is that I would encourage everyone in this community and others to come to the hearing. I believe they will find it an example of the type of justice educators are treated with."

**MILLER ADDED THAT** he plans to have counsel present.

LB 82, passed by the legislature early this year, outlines the procedures for dismissing teachers but superintendents and associate superintendents are not included in the bill.

The administrators' rights are limited to a process which includes early notification of dismissal intent, reasons for dismissal in writing, and the opportunity for a hearing.

The Wednesday hearing, Dean said, is to enable the board to determine if it desires to seek Miller's dismissal.