

Ecker-Racz Will Leave Arlington School Board

By BRIAN KELLY
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L. Laszlo Ecker-Racz, member of the Arlington School Board since late 1961, plans to leave the post when his term expires June 30.

In Arlington, the Hungarian-born school overseer is best known as the chief author of a controversial "career scale" pay plan for distinguished teachers. Outside his own community, he is noted nationally as an authority on fiscal administration and inter-governmental relations.

The former school board chairman is one of two persons on the policy-making body whose four-year terms expire in June. His colleague, Mrs. Ruth O'Dell Cox, said yesterday she would like to remain on the board.

All five school overseers are appointed by the County Board. Under new enabling legislation, the two terms that would normally have expired last December were extended for six months, so that newcomers would not face annual budget decisions immediately after joining the school body.

Also Tax Expert

Ecker-Racz is assistant staff director for the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. With an additional background as a tax expert, he is a frequent speaker and author on his specialty.

He said yesterday he was stepping down for several reasons. "For one thing, I think these are jobs that ought to be revolving."

He said his speaking engagements require him to leave home every week and he has taken on new duties as a trustee for the Group Health Association, a non-profit, cooperative medical program.

In a step that divided Ecker-Racz from his four board colleagues this year, the board abolished the career scale as a separate pay plan for teachers and decided to incorporate its incentive features in a single plan for all teachers.

"A Tragic Mistake"

Ecker-Racz said yesterday, "I think the abandonment is a tragic mistake. I think it was a real breakthrough, and I have no doubt that it will appear in other parts of the country."

Basically, the career scale



L. LASZLO ECKER-RACZ

gave higher pay to teachers with a minimum of three years in the Arlington public schools, if they impressed their superiors and continued graduate studies. The teachers' own professional organization, the Arlington Education Association, sought for two years to have a single scale reinstated.

Meanwhile, Arlington County Board chairman Leo Urbanske Jr. has sent a letter to 175 civic, school and other interested groups in Arlington asking them to submit names of school board nominees by May 12.

