School panel OKs changes in clothes rules

By MARK LAMBERT

Public school students will be able to wear warm-up pants and mid-thigh or longer short pants next school year if the School Board approves a committee recommendation made on Tuesday.

The Pupil Services Committee also recommended that the full board ban T-shirts or other clothes containing “advertisement of alcohol, drugs or other illegal substances.”

The full board will vote on the matter in its July 28 meeting.

With board member Maudine Ault as the lone dissenter, the committee recommended that a portion of the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook be amended for the 1988-89 year to remove language outlawing “the wearing of shorts of any kind to school.” In its place, the committee recommended that “all wearing apparel should be at least mid-thigh in length.”

The policy change, if approved by the board, also will apply to skirts and dresses.

The committee also recommended that the board allow students to wear sweat pants to school. Sweat pants still would be outlawed under the changes.

The board was unable to muster enough votes last year to ban jams, colorful mid-thigh to knee-length pants popular among students. Many principals had complained that students were able to wear jams without violating the policy handbook because jams are not considered shorts.

Ault said she could not condone the wearing of shorts among students, even if the proposed policy says the shorts cannot be shorter than mid-thigh length.

Associate Superintendent for Pupil Services Horace White said the change in the policy about shorts, if approved by the board, will be tried on a one-year trial basis. If principals report problems with the policy change, he said, the staff will recommend that the board revert to the current policy.

The current policy on shorts reads: “Pantsuits, mid-thigh length apparel such as skirts and culottes and knickers, are acceptable. The wearing of shorts of any kind to school, during the regular school day, is prohibited.”