



Children from Mr. Norman's class at Boise Elementary School listen to tapes. Only Nat Charleston and Tyron Taylor noticed the camera.



Making cider in Claude Dabritz' Boise classroom: Todd Pratcher, Jackie Taylor, Theresa Cunningham, Gregory Sly and Robin Durant. The young man in the cap is not identified.

School Board discusses desegregation plans

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education for the students. That is an important question to raise, but he was not hearing it raised in a helpful way.

Buel repeated his belief that in some instances Albina schools are doing a worse job than others, that they haven't attracted the best teachers. And that needs to be improved if the district is to offer the same quality of education in all of its schools.

Buel asked if the plans met the commitment made to the Black United Front. McNamara said, "Probably not", but Cawthorne thought they do. In response to Buel's question about how the issue of equal burden was addressed, McNamara responded that as much as possible any given parent would have the same choices available as any other parent.

Another serious issue addressed by both the Black United Front and the Coalition was that of scattering of Black children throughout a large number of schools. This scattering not only isolates Black children by placing them in situations where they are alone in classrooms, but is destructive to the community because neighbors attend different schools.

The plan presented by Superintendent Blanchard would have restricted assignment of students from any elementary school to an assigned school and a limited number of options. Cawthorne disagreed, saying parents options should not be limited.

Board member Priestley was concerned about the scattering saying that in his opinion children need peer support as they go school.

He favors having community groups going through the grades together. He was troubled not only by children being recruited out to multiple schools, but by a magnet middle school from which children would be dispersed to several high schools.

Cawthorne said peer support could be substituted by parent support and that scattering is only destructive if it is forced by the district. The same scattering would not be destructive if it were through the parent's choice.

Adams High School

The proposed plans would close John Adams as a high school, transferring students to Jefferson, Grant, Madison and Roosevelt. The current Columbia/Whitaker Middle School, or some parts of it, would be housed at Adams. Since that would create a middle school of 1200 or more students, a separate middle school in the Whitaker building might be necessary.

Michael Grice, a teacher at Adams High School, opposed the recommendation that Adams High School be closed. He said the school's declining enrollment, the main reason given for closing the school, is caused by removal of students from

its feeder schools -- King, Woodlawn, Rigler, Vernon, Faubian -- and by allowing a disproportionate number of students to attend Benson. "Most of the problems in desegregation could be handled by gerrymandering -- readjusting the boundary lines to place Black children in schools not far away."

Grice said Adams has a great potential as a high school in a minority community -- the potential in a building like Adams is "unbounded" -- with a foundry, full auto shops, a wood working shop, a graphic arts plant, it has the potential to compliment a school like Benson.

Assignment of students from Scoot and Sacajawea would not only provide an adequate number of students but would improve the racial balance.

Al Jamison, chairman of the Emergency School Aid Act advisory committee, which monitors federal desegregation grants, recommended middle schools at Boise and Eliot and the conversion of Adams to an Early Childhood Education Center and a magnet middle school. The also recommended that the district get on with reorganization by

making Ainsworth a K-5, Chapman a PreK-5 and Hayhurst a middle school. They suggested also the eventual use of Lincoln High School as a middle school.

The Board voted to present their own two plans, with alternatives, and the ESSA plan to the public for discussion.

BUF opposes School Board plan

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and to deal with them. Apparently they can't seem to call the shots. I have a feeling that they are not in control."

The Black United Front will put together a package of proposals dealing with all of the issues surrounding desegregation: placement of students, employment,

curriculum, staff training, discipline, which will be presented to the community and the Board at a later date.

A community meeting will be held on Thursday, November 29th, at 7:00 p.m. at King Neighborhood Facility to evaluate the school district's performance since the boycott was deferred and to discuss the position that Blanchard should resign.

"Throughout the twelve weeks we have received numerous complaints from parents about racist practices that their children suffer from in Portland Public Schools," Herndon said. "These range from bus drivers cursing at children to the same old unfair disciplinary actions. There has been little if any change in the manner that Black children are treated in Portland schools."

"We have observed little commitment to hire Black teachers or administrators, the district's affirmative action policy remains extremely weak."

The public meeting will determine a boycott should be called and whether the Superintendent's resignation should be one of the boycott demands.


The boycott demands included: creation of one or more middle schools; assignment of no less than 40 per cent Blacks to receiving schools; equitable discipline; increased hiring of minority teachers and administrators and assignment of Blacks to schools where Black student attend; upgrading of education in community schools.

The decision whether to resume boycott plans will be left to the community, according to Herndon. "We have always responded to what the community wants. Our original call for a boycott was in response to community concerns."

Tea scheduled

The Portland Section of the National Council of Negro women will hold its Annual Founder's Day Tea from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 2nd at 3143 N.E. 14th Avenue. This tea is an annual event at which special tribute is paid to the founder of NCNW, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune. Chairman of the Tea is Mrs. Betty Ivory. President of NCNW is Mrs. Betty J. Stephens.

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