

# METROPOLITAN

## 'Fenwick plan' proposes school boundary change

Dr. James Fenwick submitted his annual report on racial balance to the School Board Monday night. The report, required by the Board each year, responds to the state requirement that each school district report on problems and progress in racial desegregation.

Schools that are over 50 per cent minority enrollment and Dr. Fenwick's recommendations follow:

•Ball—With 290 students, Ball is 53.4 per cent minority. Fenwick recommended boundary changes within the Roosevelt cluster that would reduce percentages of minority students at Ball, Clarendon and Portsmouth. He advised that the district continue to work with the Housing Authority of Portland to address Housing problems.

•Boise—With 499 students, 87.4 minority, of which 120 are Southeast Asian. An assessment is being conducted of the Basic program to determine the effect of the new Early Childhood Education Center and the magnet program on racial balance; student achievement; meeting of curricular goals; the presence of "elements essential for effective schools."

Fenwick advises that Boise can not be desegregated without involving other schools—possibly Chapman and Buckman. Among the options are to close Boise, use the building for Tubman or a new middle school, establish a Pre-K-5 program, use it as a non-resident magnet school.

•Humboldt—With 573 students, including 240 transfer students, 75.4 minority, Humboldt was transferred into an Early Childhood Education Center with white preschool children for purposes of desegregation. The desegregation plan replaced grades 4 and 5, adding to the number of students enrolled. As in past years, the whole transfer students continue through grade 2 or 3, then return to their own schools leaving the upper grades virtually all Black.

Because of the return of neighborhood children to Humboldt the school is overcrowded. The parents committee has recommended that space be added to accommodate the children.

Fenwick recommended that the western portion of the Humboldt area be transferred to Beach and that to compensate for the influx of Black students into Beach, an ECEC be established there to draw white children.

•Eliot, Irvington, King, Sabin, Woodlawn and Vernon—Fenwick recommends an upgrading of the 3rd and 5th grades to prepare students for middle school and to hold white students. "Target schools" should be established with curricula designed to draw minority students out of the neighborhood schools; "fully implement the more aggressive and powerful marketing programs designed by staff last

spring" to entice minority children to other schools; hire satisfied parents to recruit parents and children to out-of-neighborhood schools.

•Tubman Middle School—488 students, 64.8 per cent minority. Fenwick advised that the permanent site be chosen; a "carefully managed and constantly maintained public relations focus" be developed; a year-long focus on "marketing"; a more comprehensive science program.

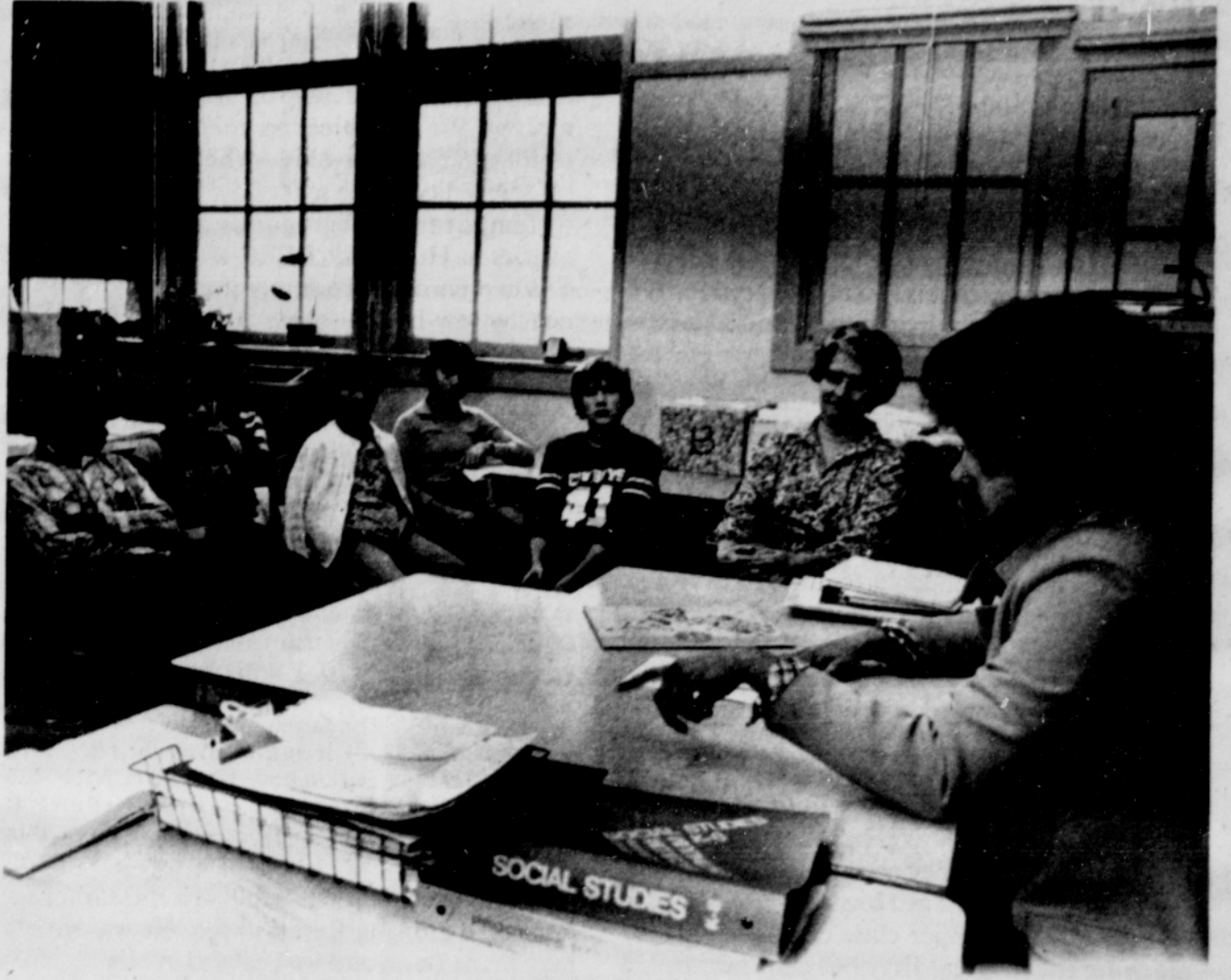
•Jefferson High School—1359 students, 64.5 per cent minority. The percentage of minority students at Jefferson was over 50 per cent this fall, following the closure of Adams and Washington/Monroe and the transfer of many of those students to Jefferson.

Fenwick recommended an assessment of educational needs, community attitudes and program effectiveness.

•Rice school is over 50 per cent Southeast Asian and 40 per cent are in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. ESL classes receive 40 minutes of English instruction. Parents recommend that non-English-speaking children be limited to 25 per cent or that guidelines be established.

Fenwick recommended boundary changes that would transfer Asian children to other near by schools, and that staff be added to Rice.

The School Board will discuss the report and the issue of desegregation in greater depth in the Spring.



Janita Duke, editor of "Grassroot News N.W." and reporter for the Observer, talks with Boise students De Norval Bilbrew, Ted Hart, Candace Ewell, Bao Thou, Chou Yang, Nicky Applegate, and librarian Beth Nance. The discussion and a talk to the student assembly by Ms. Duke and Kenny Adair of Emanuel Hospital, were part of a series featuring successful Boise graduates.

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)

## Demo party responds to 'racist' charge

Joe Smith, Chairman of the Democratic Party of Oregon, responded to charges of racism by Calvin O. Henry, President of the Oregon Assembly for Black Affairs.

Henry charged that the State Democratic Party joined with the Multnomah County Labor Council to boycott the OABA "Summit" held in October. Henry said the Democratic Party discontinued advertising the event in its newsletter because it was to be held at the Thunderbird Jantzen Beach, which is on labor's official unfair list.

Smith said Henry had talked with him last summer about publicizing the visit of Mayor Maynard Jackson, who is a member of the Democratic Party National Committee. "I had thought the Party would be asked to participate, but I never heard from him again."

When the state office received a flier in the mail, he placed the announcement in the Executive Reporter.

"At the time I did not realize the meeting was being held in a place on the 'unfair list,'" Smith explained. "When this was brought to my at-

tention I removed the announcement from the Executive Report. I had not been asked to publicize it in the first place."

Smith explained that he had to respond to an issue that is so important to many members of the Democratic Party. "It is similar to the type of situation where if a white organization were holding an event in an Elks Club and a Black organization objected, we would have to respond."

Smith added that he had not discouraged anyone from attending. In fact, he had asked Louise Beaudreau, vice chair, to attend the conference that the \$50 banquet. Mrs. Beaudreau was surprised that she was not acknowledged or introduced, especially "in light of the extensive and obvious outreach" the OABA made to leader of the Republican Party, including inviting them to address the assembly.

Smith states that the Democratic Party seeks participation of Blacks. Three Black people—Bill McCoy, Nick Barnett and Marvin Reve, serve on the State Central Commit-

tee and Carl Braxton is an alternate. "The State Party has zero control over the selection of members to the Central Committee," he explained. They are elected by the county organizations and are people who are active in the party and seek the position.

"The most important influence members of minority groups can have is at the biennial convention where there is an opportunity to participate in discussion of the issues—building the platform. The delegates are chosen by the counties." Smith introduced a resolution that would have allowed him to appoint 25 delegates at large—an opportunity to ensure that minorities are represented.

Cal Henry, he reported, opposed that resolution, both signing a petition against the rule change and recommending in a sub-committee meeting that it not be adopted. "I would have thought that as president of an organization that talks about getting Blacks into the political process, he would have favored the resolution."



JOE SMITH

## 'Fenwick plan' shows board division

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

the Black United Front, expressed his opposition to the notion of racial balance and the way it is addressed. "Much better time could be spent to discuss programs to bring about quality. It is insulting to hear ourselves referred to as racially isolated when our children are in schools in large numbers." He particularly objected to the commission to study Boise again, "better propaganda techniques," and the aggressive recruiting program designed to entice Black children out of their schools.

The 25 per cent that Blanchard considered to be the "tipping point" has risen its head again, he explained. This time it is for Asian children. "I feel sorry for their parents; they can't come here to speak about what they want for their children; you shouldn't have to guess at what they want... is scares me." Herndon compared the attitude toward Asians with that toward Blacks—that they are scattered and moved around. "You should develop programs that meet their needs; I should think that more time would be spent teaching them English."

School Board member Herb Cawthorne pointed to "the confusion and disjointed nature" of the Board's policies. Due to disagree-

ments within the Board and frustration in working on the desegregation plan, there was no thorough discussion of the former numerical measurements of integration.

"What is the educational justification of any percentage measurement of integratin? Indeed, the comprehensive plan attempted to place this district on record in stating that the Board of Education was more interested in education and less interested in percentages—which was the forerunner of an achievement policy that promotes the fact that all children can learn and it is the district's responsibility to see to it that such learning occurs. This is the essence of the mission of the school district—achievement. And the continued ill-defined focus on percentages—as though within them there is some inherent measure of the potential for achievement—is misleading..."

"The confusion is ours. And our confusion reflects in the disjointed, inconsistent, and inequitable solution of the administration."

He gave two examples: In the desegregation plan the 4th and 5th grades were added to Humboldt and children told they could attend their neighborhood school. Two years later, because the school is overcrowded, the proposal is to move

many of them to Beach. When Adams and Washington/Monroe were closed the board was aware that they were placing more students in the Jefferson area than the building can accommodate and that a large percentage are Black. Now that Jefferson is over 50 per cent minority, they are concerned.

Board member Steve Buel said them most racially isolated schools are those with nearly all white students, yet this is not seen as a problem. "I don't see why we keep getting reports that don't include those schools—I thought we had agreed to that." Calling the report "subversive at best," he said the Board should get up and say if there is a difference in a school that is 90 per cent Black and one that is 90 per cent white. "We should quit pity-

patting about the race issue—not come forth with reports that few people read."

Regarding a quota for Southeast Asian children—or non-English-speaking children—he said every teacher knows it is extremely hard to teach a class in which there are several children who don't speak English, or who are disruptive, or who have learning problems. However, there has never been any suggestion that disruptive children should be transferred to other schools. The suggestion to move non-English-speaking children is "because the district is not willing to deal with the problem. Why is that so?"

He advised that the district provide the resources and program necessary to provide for the children's education.

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