

In fight led by Lohr

School board adopts middle school plan

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

The city-county school board adopted a policy Monday night that develops academically-gifted classes in all of the 12 middle schools next year.

But the program in half the schools will be different from the program in the other six. The programs at Ashley, Atkins, Hill, Philo, Mineral Springs and Walkertown Middle schools will combine qualifying academically-gifted students with students who are superior but who do not qualify as academically gifted.

The programs at those six schools are different because those schools do not have enough identified academically-gifted students to sustain AG programs. But because the majority of the board members did not want to have programs at some schools and eliminate the AG program at others, the board decided to cluster the AG students with other superior students.

Board member Mary Margaret Lohr led the fight for the cluster system, saying she felt some students in those six schools could do the work but for unknown reasons had not been identified.

"I think the students are there," Lohr said, adding that if the programs are not started now in those six schools they will never be started.

Walter Marshall, vice president of the NAACP, reminded the board that one of the selling points of last fall's city-county bond referendum to get money to finance the school system's reorganization was that AG programs would be instituted in all 12 middle schools.

"Now you are coming back and trying to undermine the program," Marshall said. "It's a matter of public

"Now you are coming back and trying to undermine the (AG) program."

-- Walter Marshall

relations. This doesn't affect students from the west side of town or those from more affluent communities."

Other alternatives the board offered were either to pair the programs at the six schools or to have students from the other six programs voluntarily transfer to programs at one of the other six schools.

In other business, the board:
• approved the list of high school teachers, athletic directors and coaches for the eight high schools. According to a report compiled by the school system's central administration, 81 percent of the teachers assigned to the eight high schools were given schools of their choice.

Many teachers will be reassigned for the 1985-86 school year to fill positions at the three newly-created high schools that do not have senior classes for the 1984-85 school year, said Dr. Earl Sanderfer, assistant superintendent for instruction.

• approved construction plans for Cook Middle School, Glenn High School and Mt. Tabor High School.

• adopted a resolution thanking Palmer Friende for his 32 years in the local school system. Friende, associate superintendent for instruction, is retiring.

Board delays action on advisory council

By AUDREY L. WILLIAMS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Alderman Martha Wood's vote of no consideration at Monday night's Board of Aldermen meeting delayed any plans to implement a resolution approving the newly-proposed revitalization board, Winston-Salem Civic Ventures.

After the aldermen worked for over an hour to amend different aspects of the new board's guidelines, Wood moved to halt any action on the body that would act as an advisory council to the aldermen and county commissioners for revitalization plans. The committee would be made up of public officials and local businessmen from the city and county.

Alderman Virginia Newell told members that her concerns stemmed mainly from what the board's make-up would be and its community representation, saying that a "pet group" should be avoided.

Alderman Ernestine Wilson's complaint concerned how long board members would hold their posts.

Advisory board members would be appointed by the mayor and the chairman of the county commissioners.

Newell, however, argued that the aldermen should have the power to vote out members who are not beneficial to the board or insensitive to the concerns relating to economic development. She did not agree that the aldermen should have say-so in the selection process.

Wood voted no consideration, a parliamentary procedure delaying any action or further discussion on the matter until the next regular meeting July 2. She said not enough time had been put into planning the board, which would assist the city and county's economic development and pool financing for developers of proposed city projects.

"By that time (July 2) I hope they (aldermen) can achieve some clear thinking on the thing," said Wood. "I understand that the ordinance was written in one hour."

In other business the board approved:

• a resolution granting an extension of authority to provide funds to support the multi-family housing project on 12th and File streets.

• a resolution confirming the assessment for demolition of housing unfit for human habitation.

• a resolution to approve design services for the convention center parking deck and appropriation of funds.

• a resolution authorizing advertisements to receive bids for the sale of community development land in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of Trade and Second streets.

Angelou receives foundation grant

Maya Angelou, Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake forest University, has received an unrestricted grant of \$75,000 from the Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Miss Angelou is one of three persons "whose religious, charitable, artistic, literary or education work in the South has been interested, creative and significant for a number of years," according to an announcement by the foundation.

The foundation also said that the "awards are designed to recognize the work of a few special people in the region whose accomplishments are of a great merit It is our hope that this prize will enable talented individuals who have found their stride and discovered their competence and interests to continue to work with diminished financial pressure."

The foundation also made \$75,000 grants to novelist Alice Walker and Steve Suiits, chairman of the Southern Regional Council.

Miss Angelou, a black writer and actress, was named the first Reynolds Professor at Wake Forest in 1982.

Her most recent book, "The Heart of a Woman," is the fourth volume of her autobiography. She also is the author of three collections of poetry.

Miss Angelou said when she was told about the grant, "I was wordless. Actually the grant is an honor to me, my institution, my race and my gender." Then she laughed and said, "Of course, it's an honor to all tall people, too." Miss Angelou is six feet tall.

Miss Angelou, who made the commencement address at the graduation exercises at Winston-Salem State University and received an honorary degree, also has honorary degrees from 11 other colleges and universities, including Wake Forest, Smith College and Atlanta University.

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