

Breakfasts to be offered by all city-county schools

By ROBIN ADAMS
Chronicle Assistant Editor

The city-county school board voted Monday night to give Superintendent Zane Eargle the authority to require that all schools offer breakfast programs.

Eargle said the 14 schools that are not participating in the program will begin offering breakfast to those children who are eligible and those who want to buy breakfast as soon as possible.

The board's present policy, said Eargle, addresses the breakfast program, but requires only voluntary participation. The board's 6-1 vote gives Eargle the authority to mandate that the program be available in every school.

Board member John Wood cast the only vote against the program's expansion. Wood said broadening the program would create additional work for those people who are already the school system's lowest paid. He said he would support the program's expansion if those employees who would have additional work would be given raises.

Although she said she supports the program, board member Margaret Plemmons said a simple breakfast would not be enough to handle problems like malnutrition -- a point many audience members had raised while

addressing the board.

"I'm very concerned with children with special needs," said Plemmons. "A breakfast 180 days addresses the need of the hungry, but what happens to the other 185 days? If a child is malnourished, there are other agencies that should be helping that child."

Board member Mary Margaret Lohr also supported the program's expansion but expressed concern about voting on an issue that she had received no information about.

On a motion made by John Holleman Jr. and seconded by Beaufort O. Bailey, the board approved the measure.

Some principals said they didn't want to support the program because it would cause an inconvenience. But Elaine Williams, a kindergarten teacher at Union Cross Elementary School, which already serves breakfast, said she has noticed no inconveniences.

"My teaching has never been interrupted by the breakfast program," said Williams. "I consider it a pleasure to serve breakfast to the children in my school that need it."

According to Williams, each teacher only has to serve two weeks during the year to supervise the program and the children, not the teachers, are responsible for any cleaning up that needs to be done.

Republicans

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For instance, although Kenneth and Ann Lowery are registered Democrats, they decided this year to vote Republican. Kenneth Lowery said he chose to go with the Republicans because he, like former football player Rosie Grier, supports the Republican position against abortions and for school prayer.

"A lot of black people vote Democratic because of tradition," he said, "I feel we need to change that and vote for the man and not the party."

"I really feel like the Republicans are more honest, this

time."

Said Ann Lowery: "We have given the Democrats chance after chance after chance and they ain't doing nothing. We need a change."

Kenneth Lowery said he had no problems supporting Jesse Helms even though Helms opposed a holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"That was just his opinion," said Lowery. "I will always remember Martin Luther King, but how many of us really celebrate his birthday?"

Tony Brown

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He has also conducted a record-breaking nationwide ballot access drive. No other candidate for president has managed to get on the ballot in so many states the first time out. In 33 states you can vote for Serrette under various banners.

It is the first time a black presidential candidate has run in so many states. Jackson, remember, was not running for president, but for the nomination of the Democratic Party. "Blacks have tried to gain power in both parties and they have failed," Serrette said.

"Jackson should have run as an independent," he added. "He should have built something separate and apart from the Democratic Party. The Democrats were willing to exploit Jackson's blackness and take the votes of blacks, but they didn't want any part of the Rainbow Coalition program."

The black independent candidate planned to plug into the anti-Reagan mood, Jackson's weak "signal" for Mondale and the ambivalence of blacks for an indifferent Democratic candidate and get six million votes. That's a lot of black "Reaganites," as the Communist will call them.

85 percent of the black vote in the Democratic primaries, has not transferred his "enthusiasm" to Mondale. Instead, he talks against Reagan and not for Mondale (and very little of that); it is a very clever ploy of going through the motions. And his followers

are receiving his weak "signal."

Todd, a 20-year associate of Jackson, is not coy at all about his signal. "You may vote your own conscience," he said. "You may vote for Mondale if you decide. That's your business. You may vote for Dennis Serrette." Serrette is a black candidate for president.

While Serrette, a labor and community organizer for 20 years, wants Jesse Jackson's rainbow to shine on him, his spokeswoman says that "he threatens to cost the Democrats the election in 1984 and pave the way for considerable independent gains in 1988."

Serrette deserves much credit. He never misled people by saying that he could win the presidency and he has an effective, organized approach to making a difference -- sublimating black anger and resisting the two-party exploitation with an independent candidacy.

Tunnel

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whether his rent is \$300 or \$400.

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