

# CMS weighs demographics vs. bond pledge

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need \$12 million.

"Marie G. Davis is the poster child" for changing needs at CMS, Johnston said, adding the district must do renovations on the school so voters will know the money they approved was spent on the project.

"If we make a case to the pub-

lic that's what's going on then there is no break in the trust," he said.

That's what board member Kit Cramer says the school board has been doing, by holding public meetings and she hopes that the public will understand what has to be done. Cramer said she has attended each meeting.

"Hopefully people can try to look at this a little dispassionately," she said. But Cramer acknowledges that when it comes to education, it's easier said than done.

Cramer said if CMS continues with current plans for bond money, such as the Davis project, there will be schools with

students "rattling around in them" and voters will see it as a waste of money.

"We're going to make everybody a little bit mad," she said.

Cramer said the school system is caught between a rock and a hard place with any decision it makes on using bonds.

Parents have strong feelings

about moving the money from inner city campuses to the suburbs, she said and there have been shifts in attendance patterns at schools like Davis.

"If the project doesn't serve the community, it should be reevaluated," Johnston said.

A decision on the bond monies is expected next month.



Cramer

# Kerry regrets limited role during 1960s civil rights movement

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aware of it and helped in some way, a small way from the side, but sure, today, holding that in the regard that I do, it would have been something that I would have been proud to have been part of."

Kerry was eager to draw a contrast between his vision for America and the Bush record.

"I think George Bush has a truth deficit of enormous proportion," he said. "Almost every promise he's made to the country, he's broken. He promised that he would create 5.1 million jobs. He's lost 1.8 million. He promised that his tax cut was affordable because we had a surplus of \$5.6 trillion. We now have a deficit of \$520 billion in one year, the largest deficit in the history of the country..."

"He promised to be a uniter, he's been a divider. He promised he would bring people together, he attacks affirmative action on Martin Luther King's birthday. And not having learned that year, he appoints Judge [Charles] Pickering on Martin Luther King's next birthday. The level of breach of trust, in my judgment, is larger than anything I've ever seen."

The Bush campaign has attacked Kerry for unfairly introducing religion into the campaign.

In a speech last month at New Northside Baptist Church in St. Louis, Kerry indirectly criticized Bush. Speaking at the African-American church, Kerry referenced James 2:14: "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claim to have faith but has no deeds."

Kerry said at the time, "The scriptures say, what does it profit, my bother, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? When we look at what is happening in America today, where are the works of compassion?"

Steve Schmidt, a Bush spokesman, called Kerry's comments "beyond the bounds of acceptable discourse and a sad exploitation of scripture for political attack."

Kerry told the Black journalists that he does not bring up religion on the campaign trail.

"It's appropriate in church to talk about how you enter the kingdom of God," he

explained. "That is, after all, why we go to church. And if you have true faith and you profess that faith, you have to live that faith. Living your faith is not reserved in the hour or two hours or whatever it is that you're in church. It's carried on in your life."

Kerry said he was surprised by the attack on him over his remarks in St. Louis, given Bush's reliance on religion.

As governor, Bush proclaimed June 10 "Jesus Day" in Texas. He has expressed support for posting the Ten Commandments in government buildings and ran for office saying that Jesus was his favorite political philosopher. Bush makes frequent references to religion in his speeches.

The Bush campaign, which is expected to raise \$200 million for the president's reelection effort, has launched a massive effort to paint Kerry as being too liberal and one who is inconsistent on the issues. But Kerry says he is confident that he can withstand such withering attacks.

"You'll notice they've done

\$40 million on me nationally over the last six weeks and I'm still leading in three out of four polls and we're neck-and-neck in the other one," he stated. "It ain't working. Americans want something more. They want leadership, they want real solutions to real problems. I'm going to keep being positive."

Kerry says he expect Bush to try to sidetrack voters by focusing on so-called cultural issues that have little to do with their daily lives.

"I'm going to keep focused, keep coming back to the real choice," he explained. "When they say this, I am going to say jobs. When they say this, I am going to say jobs. When they say that, I'm going to say jobs, health care, education, I'm just going to keep coming back to the real choices."

Kerry invited blacks to look at the choices he's making.

"The first meeting I held when I secured the nomination was not with the Senate Caucus, it was with the Congressional Black Caucus," Kerry said. "I wanted to make it very clear

that I want this race to be different. I know in the black community that there's this sense that politicians come

along during election time. Where's the delivery afterwards and a feeling of being taken for granted - that's the

most direct way to put it. And I'm determined that that is not going to be the case in this race."

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