

NAACP president

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Changes in the academically gifted classes were suggested by a 1985-86 committee appointed by Superintendent Zane E. Eargle to study the program.

Unlike the school system's current, self-contained AG program, the pilot program approved by the board allows more mixing between academically gifted students and other students.

Those identified as the most gifted third-graders will participate in the most restrictive model, which is similar to the present system, in that the students take only classes for the gifted.

To qualify for this self-contained group, students must score 100 points in objective testing or possess an IQ of 140. The classes will be located at one or two schools.

Third-grade gifted students who do not qualify for the most restrictive group will be placed in the less restrictive setting, allow-

ing them more interaction with their peers.

In the less restrictive or multi-grouping approach, both gifted and the other students will be served by regular teachers and a teacher who specializes in gifted students.

The gifted students will be grouped together part of the day for classes in language arts, reading, foreign language and mathematics but will join the other students for the rest of the day for subjects such as science and social studies.

More than 15 parents, all of them white, spoke at Monday's meeting about the new program. The sentiment among the parents who opposed it was that the school system was trying to fix something that isn't broken.

People speaking for the new program stressed its flexibility and the interaction it allows between gifted students and other students.

While no black parents spoke,

Bessie Allen, chairman of the Education Committee of the NAACP, said she opposes the AG concept in general.

"The Education Committee of the NAACP feels that separate AG classes should be abolished," she said. "More attention should be focused on providing quality education for every child enrolled in the school system."

No blacks spoke on the issue, Marshall said, because black people who have children in the program have lost their racial identity. "They don't feel they need to do that type of thing," he said. "They don't realize their kids will be the first ones pushed out."

Board members, however, had their own concerns.

Thomas C. Voss said he wouldn't have any problems with implementing the program.

"I've heard the word 'elitist' mentioned a lot," he said. "I personally don't think AG is elitist."

Although board member Mary Margaret Lohr said she agrees

that the program should be tested, she said it should be placed in elementary schools throughout the system, not just in one or two schools.

"I don't think we can effectively put into place all the components of the program unless we put it into all third grades," she said. "I also believe we have very capable staff. I don't think (Assistant Superintendent C. Douglas) Carter would have recommended going to this if he didn't think he would be ready."

Board member Grace C. Eflord disagreed. "I think to do it in all schools would be taxing on the staff," she said. "I think to start slowly and really monitor the program would be the best way."

Board member Gerald N. Hewitt said he was concerned about IQ scores being used as one of the criteria for eligibility in the program.

"I would like to know what basis we have for selecting 140 instead of 150 or 110?" he said.

But Carter, assistant superintendent for support services, said that the selection criteria are set at the state level, not locally.

Board member Beaufort O. Bailey, the only black on the board, said that he hopes that the new program will enroll more blacks. He said that he, like Marshall, is concerned about the low number of blacks in the present gifted program.

After the program has been tested for a year, Bailey said, he too would like to have the gifted program examined.

The board also took action on another matter that has caused an uproar recently.

Acting on a motion by Bailey, the board voted for a study of the racial makeup of school enrollments during the 1986-87 academic year. Any changes that the board might approve would take effect at the beginning of the following school year.

Bailey told the *Chronicle* last

week that he does not think the issue of changing attendance lines is a racial one.

Marshall disagrees. "What they (parents) are protesting is their kids being in classes that are predominantly black," he said.

Marshall accused the board of sweeping the race issue under the rug. He said that blacks in the community will not just sit by and let this happen.

"I think we in the community have to rise up and say we're not going to have our kids treated like this," he said.

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New private club

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join the board by McNair. "I was asked to become a member when the idea was kicked around about organizing the club," he says.

Dr. James Branch, another black member of the board, says he doesn't have any comments on the club at this time.

Although the actual organizing has taken place in recent months, the idea to locate a club here was first mentioned a few years ago.

Camille M. Jones, marketing coordinator for Webb Cos. Inc., developer of One Triad Plaza, says the Club Corp. of America came to Winston-Salem looking at it as a potential market for one of its clubs.

Ms. Jones says the corporation initially approached the Twin City Club and made it an offer to manage the club. But the club declined, she says.

Later, she says, when the Triad Park building was being planned, Webb Cos. officials recalled the interest the corporation had expressed in locating a club here.

"When we began to plan the building, we discussed the feasibility of locating a dining club on the top floor of the building," Ms. Jones says.

"Our main concern was that it would be a real plus for downtown Winston-Salem because it would attract all kinds of people," she says. "We felt that our project would be the focal point for a sort of revitalization of Winston-Salem and the club would be like icing on the cake."

Once the project was planned, Ms. Jones says, Webb Cos. officials talked to the Club Corp. about locating the club in the Triad Park tower.

Jim Holmes, vice president of

the Webb Cos., then approached Mayor Wayne A. Corpening about recommending someone for chairman. Corpening suggested McNair.

A board of governors was

created and has met twice to compile an invitation list, Davis says. Davis says about 1,500 applications and a schedule of fees were mailed out.

"We try to invite people we

feel would enjoy belonging to such a club -- people who can afford to belong," Davis says.

McNair says that, so far, no one who has applied has been turned down. He says the initial

tion fee is \$800 and dues are \$50 per month.

When the club site is completed, it will offer formal and informal dining rooms and several private dining rooms.

Dare to be More.



The Winston-Salem Chronicle is published every Thursday by the Winston-Salem Chronicle Publishing Co. Inc., 617 N. Liberty St. Mailing address: Post Office Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. Phone: 722-8624. Second-class postage paid at Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102. The Winston-Salem Chronicle is a charter member of the Newsfinder service of the Associated Press and a member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the North Carolina Press Association and the North Carolina Black Publishers Association.

Subscription: \$18.52 per year, payable in advance (North Carolina sales tax included). Please add \$5.00 for out-of-town delivery. PUBLICATION USPS NO. 067910.

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