

Former Black Student Nostalgic About CMS School Closings

By James Cuthbertson
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I am nostalgic about school closings. I guess I always will be.

I was at York Road High School as a 10th grader when it was closed in 1966, and we were sent to integrate Olympic.

Area residents had been promised a new school tentatively called South Charlotte High to be built on a hill behind York Road and we were anxiously anticipating its arrival.

city crescent which the school system says has lost 7,000 students in the last decade.

With no population shifts and based on school system predictions, the area is expected to lose another 2,000 students by 1985-86.

Two schools, Wilmore and Double Oaks, have

been closed in that area in the last decade.

Two others—Irwin and Myers Park—which drew students from this area have been made optional schools.

In explaining his change to a middle school concept, Dr. Robinson said this would increase both West

An Opinion...

Mecklenburg and Harding would have to attend West Mecklenburg in ninth grade. This would place them at a school for one year that they would have no allegiance for whatsoever. Making West Charlotte a nine through 12 school might be an interesting idea to explore.

One obvious negative is that the 100 students in the University Park base attendance that would be assigned to West Charlotte

for grades 10 through 12 would have to attend West Mecklenburg in ninth grade. This would place them at a school for one year that they would have no allegiance for whatsoever. Making West Charlotte a nine through 12 school might be an interesting idea to explore.

The West Charlotte attendance area involves so many junior high schools: Ranson, Northwest, J. T. Williams, Alexander Graham, Cochrane, Wilson and Coulwood, that this might not be feasible.

With all the cross-town busing in Mecklenburg County, busing should not

be a big issue anymore.

When my nephews went to Albemarle Road Elementary School, they were bused 15 miles away from their home.

It is very disheartening when a school that has such a name and tradition as Northwest has to close. But then I am very nostalgic.



My York Road experiences were beautiful and to this day I regret missing the last two years. To be uprooted in the middle of one's schooling is upsetting but not insurmountable. It happens everyday when someone moves or changes attendance areas.

The experiences I had at integrated Olympic were good ones. For friends at other schools the situations were not the same. The advantages of Olympic was that everyone was new and trying hard to work together to make things work.

The efforts made by the school board to integrate were sound ones and for the betterment of the Charlotte community which is renowned in the nation for the ease at which full integration took place. Former school board superintendents Craig Phillips and Roland Jones and present school superintendent Jay Robinson should be applauded for their wise decisions and understanding and guidance in times that could have been difficult.

Remember the names Torrence Lytle, Zeb Vance, Bethune, Double Oaks, Biddeville, Fairview, Crestdale and Plato Price? They are all former Black schools which were closed or torn down.

Myers Streets, Second Ward, Isabella Wyche, Gunn, Sterling, Morgan Street, Billingsville and Woodland have new purposes.

West Charlotte, J. T. Williams, Druid Hills, Lincoln Heights, Oaklawn, Kennedy (York Road Junior High), Marie Davis, Bruns Avenue, First Ward, Irwin Avenue and Amay James have never closed and essentially kept their purposes.

But now Northwest is the latest of the former Black schools that is facing extinction.

The plan to close it and use it to consolidate other school board services is a good one, but closing Northwest will do little to improve the racial ratios at Harding, West Charlotte, Myers Park, Olympic or the west side junior highs that are approaching 50 percent.

Perhaps a better alternative would be to keep the schools open and to look to southeast Charlotte for students to improve ratios at the west side schools or for students to raise the student enrollments so that the small junior highs on the west side could provide all the services students need.

The same could be said for Harding and West Mecklenburg.

Admittedly this is not the easiest problem and Dr. Jay Robinson has sincerely looked at the problem and come up with what he thinks are some solutions.

Proposed changes include Midwood and sending the students to Shamrock Gardens, closing Lakeview and sending the students to Tukaseegee, closing Merry Oaks and sending the students to Windsor Park and closing Northwest and sending the students (except ninth graders) to University Park which would be converted to a middle school, close Enderly Park and send students to Ashley Park and Westerly Hills, send 100 students from Lansdowne to Rama Road, reassign students in the scattered housing project on Marsh Road from Sedgfield Elementary to Park Road.

Other recommendations include making West Mecklenburg and Harding High grades nine through 12, making Coulwood, Spangh and Wilson middle schools with grades six through eight. University Park would become the fourth middle school in this area with grades six through eight.

The schools involved are in an area called the inner-



USDA Choice Whole - 10-12 Lb. Avg.

Rib Eyes

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<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.48</p> <p>Lb.</p> <p>Fresh Cut - Quarter</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Pork Loins</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">USDA Choice Beef Chuck - Bone-In Chuck Roast..... Lb. \$1.38</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.28</p> <p>Lb.</p> <p>Fresh Cut - Whole or Rib Half</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Pork Loins</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">USDA Choice Beef Rib Rib Eye Steak..... Lb. \$3.98</p>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">12¢</p> <p>Lb.</p> <p>Fresh</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Green Cabbage</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Fresh Florida Oranges..... 5 Lb. Bag \$1.29</p>
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<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p>2 Liter</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Coca Cola</h2>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$2.19</p> <p>Pkg. of 6 - 12 Oz. NR Bottles/Reg. & Lt.</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Stroh's Beer</h2>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$2.99</p> <p>1.5 Liter - Pilsener, Sangria, Vin Rosso, Rhine, Lt. Chianti, Burgundy, Chablis, Pink Chablis</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Carlo Rossi</h2>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$3.99</p> <p>Pkg. of 12 - 12 Oz. Cans/Reg. & Lt.</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Old Milwaukee</h2>
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<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.25</p> <p>Half Gallon - White House</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Apple Juice</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Why Pay \$1.69</p>  </div>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p>32 Ounce</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Duke's Mayonnaise</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Why Pay \$1.35</p> 	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">69¢</p> <p>6.5 Oz. - Lt. Chunk Tuna, in Oil</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Chicken Of The Sea</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Why Pay \$1.09</p> 	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">69¢</p> <p>119 Sheets - Large Roll</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Scott Towels</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Why Pay 87¢</p>  </div>
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<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">59¢</p> <p>Gallon</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Food Town Bleach</h2>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.79</p> <p>49 Oz. - W/Softener</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Fab Detergent</h2> 	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">4/\$1</p> <p>7.25 Oz. - Food Town</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Macaroni & Cheese</h2> 	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p>Gallon - Food Town</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Fabric Softener</h2>
<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">79¢</p> <p>2 Ply - 4 Roll Pack</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Edon Toilet Tissue</h2> 	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</p> <p>12 Oz. - Large</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Jeno Pizza</h2> 	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">4/\$1</p> <p>8 Oz. - Mahoea</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Instant Potatoes</h2>	<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3/99¢</p> <p>16 Oz. - Philly's</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Pork & Beans</h2> 

<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3/\$1</p> <p>14.5 Oz. - Chopped Beef Liver Beef Chicken Horseradish</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Alpo Dog Food</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Why Pay 2.89</p>  </div>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3/\$1</p> <p>1 Lb. - Food Town</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Margarine Quarters</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Why Pay 47¢ Each</p>  </div>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.49</p> <p>5 Lb. - Frozen CC Potatoes</p> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">Tater Boy</h2> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Why Pay 12.19</p>  </div>
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