

Use of transfer plan urged

Aug. 31, 1963
The head of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People last night urged parents of black students affected by the Corpus Christi school district's latest desegregation plan to use the latest transfer rule.

Preston Smith, president of the NAACP, told members during a regular meeting that since students from the Coles Junior High School would have

to be based anyway they should "ask for a transfer to any of the schools where they will be in a minority."

The latest plan calls for the immediate closing of Coles and zone changes for Evans, Furman, Menger, Oak Park, Savage, Southgate and Washington elementary schools. The junior high students in the Coles zone will be reassigned to Driscoll, Wynn Seale and Cullen junior highs.

Under the racial-ethnic transfer rule, a black student may transfer from a school where blacks make up more than 5.5 per cent to a school where they are less than 5.5 per cent.

Smith also complained that despite the proposed changes "the pinnacle of segregation has not been touched. The school board is not getting into the meat of the desegregation suit."

Only the black schools are

being eradicated. The basic thing that brought the suit remains unchanged," Smith said.

Smith also discussed proposed projects aimed at the NAACP's latest recruiting drive. They also discussed several money-making projects to help support scholarships and to send delegates to the state NAACP convention in Lubbock later this year.

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Coles school closing, approved Trustees split over Washington transfer

By MARY ALICE DAVIS Staff Writer

The closing of Solomon Coles students in the Evans, Savages, Southgate and Washington zones — all grouped in the northern end of the city.

The board, responding to a court desegregation order, approved the changes unanimously then split over the same general area as Coles. The other half are now in the zone of Cullen, across town, and will be offered bus transportation.

Arthur Vasquez voted against that motion, which said 4-1, saying the board purpose of the changes as "gearing up" for more extensive changes proposed for next year and dispersing Negro students now concentrated in some schools.

Although the courts have found that Mexican-American students also have been segregated in local schools, the school board contests this fact.

The plan adopted yesterday

is the first phase of a two-year desegregation proposal submitted by the board to U.S. Dist. Judge Owen D. Cox on June 11.

Court on Wednesday that despite serious failings in the first year of school is less than two weeks away, Williams noted.

Staff members told the board that the zone changes approved yesterday will create no new safety or housing problems except for some crowding at Wynn Seale.

While some students will be crossing the Interstate 37 expressway, this has been done in the past also, the board was advised. After the board approved elementary from its building at 1114 Sam Rantzlin to the Coles building at 721 Winnebago, Williams said the name of the school will be determined later.

He called the name question a "sensitive matter" and said the board might want to consult the community for suggestions.

Coles and Washington have historically been Negro schools.

Williams said he had asked "some in the community" about the possibility of converting Coles to an administration building.

"They said they'd love to have the administration building but felt the children came first," Williams said, and would prefer having Coles a remodeled air-conditioned structure — as an elementary school.

Washington, while structurally sound, is not air-conditioned and in poorer condition. Voters last year authorized spending about \$250,000 to improve Washington, Williams noted.

Vasquez said that if the building was improved as originally planned, people in the community might feel more inclined to have Coles be used by the administration.

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