

JAMES De Aruda

Coles To Be Elementary School

Washington Elementary School students will attend classes in the former Solomon Coles Junior High School, the board of trustees voted yesterday.

And the board also gave students seeking racial-ethnic transfers until Oct. 1 to apply.

The Corpus Christi district's trustees met to approve a desegregation plan which the district had submitted to the federal court. Despite what he called serious failings, U.S. District Judge Owen D. Cox approved the plan on an interim basis.

The first step in the plan involves closing Coles Junior High School and changing the boundaries of seven elementary schools, all on the west side of the city.

Of the 775 students who will be shifted, all are either Negro or Mexican-American except for 81 Anglos.

The 400 Coles students will be sent to Wynn Seale, Driscoll and Cullen junior high schools. Only those going to Cullen will be provided transportation.

The board unanimously approved

closing Coles and changing the boundaries. Voting against moving Washington pupils into Coles was Arturo Vasquez.

Vasquez said that the board should "take the interests of the taxpayer to heart" and use the Coles building for administration offices. The district is currently planning a bond election to build a new administration complex at a cost of more than \$1.2 million.

The board adopted a new transfer policy in which a student assigned to a school where the percentage of his ethnic group exceeds that of the district as a whole may transfer to any school where the percentage is below the district average.

The current district ethnic percentages are Mexican-American, 53.33; Anglo, 41.09, and Negro, 5.58, according to Dan McLendon, chief of the district's desegregation task force.

Transportation will be provided if the student transfers to the school nearest his home zone. Negro and Mexican-American students will be given transportation if they move to six "priority" schools, which

are heavily Anglo. These are Schanen, Yeager, Meadowbrook, Fraser, Woodlawn, Wilson and Sanders elementary schools.

The seven schools whose boundaries were changed yesterday are Evans, Furman, Menger, Oak Park, Savage, Southgate and Washington.

W. Glenn Hutson, school board president, said yesterday that the adoption of the plan does not mean that the board was admitting that it had segregated students. The board still feels it is "innocent," he said.

School attorney J. W. Gary advised against the board's seeking a stay order countermending Cox's ruling, indicating that the chances of success were slim.

The name of the elementary school which will be housed at Coles will be decided later, said Supt. Dana Williams. He said that it was a "sensitive" matter and that the board might want to consult the community for suggestions.

The school staff reported that the changes will create no safety or housing problems, except for some crowding at Wynn Seale.

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Supt. Williams

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