

# Aptos Parents Make It Clear They Don't Like Busing

By SYLVIA TOWNSEND  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Parents of children attending Aptos elementary schools Wednesday night told the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board they do not want their children bused to achieve desegregation, and suggested that if the trustees don't comply with their wishes, they should be replaced.

"I understand the split on the board (over the issue of busing)," Rio del Mar parent Win Fernald said. "But we elected the board. If you come to the board meetings and represent your own opinions and not the opinions of those who elected you, then I think you should be removed," Fernald said.

About 150 people attended the public hearing on desegregation at Aptos High School. Aptos parents gave the trustees many reasons they oppose cross-district busing.

Trustees are considering cross-district busing as one of several methods to alleviate segregation in the district, but have not taken action to implement it.

The board has been unable to come to an agreement on aspects of a proposed desegregation plan prepared by a citizens committee last fall. And, since passage of Proposition 1, the anti-busing initiative passed on last November's state ballot, trustees are uncertain of the legal necessity of desegregating the district.

Valencia parent and attorney Jeff Hancock urged the School Board not to institute cross-district busing, saying "I thought Proposition 1

dren on buses you will lose parent support," from those who don't have the time to drive, or who don't want to spend money on gasoline, Fernald told the board.

Rio del Mar parent Diana Allen questioned whether funds spent on buses and gas for cross-district busing might not exceed state and federal money lost if the district does not desegregate.

She asked the board to consider alternatives to busing, saying, "There is not one word

Thursday, April 10, 1980 — Santa Cruz

## Sentinel

-21

that says we have to bus anybody— there is not one word that says 'Thou shalt bus.'"

Hancock said most court cases dealing with desegregation address the issue of substandard education rather than

segregation. "I haven't seen any facts that show that we have substandard education," Hancock said.

He suggested that rather than busing for desegregation, the district attempt to identify

any substandard education that might exist in the district, then correct it.

Many parents in Watsonville also oppose busing of children, said Rio del Mar parent Earl Cantlay.

The Aptos parents were told that desegregation is scheduled for action at the School Board's April 23 meeting.

Board President Ken Neary told the parents trustees are merely trying to understand and comply with the law.

"I don't think anyone on this board wants busing. I don't

think we ever did," Neary said.

One lone voice spoke out in favor of busing.

"Personally, I am for it," Calabassas parent Rebecca Garcia said. "As we drove up here, we said, 'Wow, how nice.' Facilities in Watsonville do not compare to the facilities in this area," Garcia noted.

"I believe that children in the south county need to mingle with white children. It seems to me that you want to keep us separated, and I want to know why," Garcia said.



Ben Lomond  
Postmistress

Frances Jean Matthews, 38, of Boulder Creek, has been named the new postmistress at the Ben Lomond Post Office. Starting April 19, she will take over the duties of Elmo Nicoli, who retired as the Ben Lomond postmaster after 24 years. Matthews, who prefers to be called Jean, has had extensive postal experience since entering the service in 1964. Her most recent assignment was as foreman of delivery and collections in San Jose. She now will take over a post office that has annual receipts of \$84,500.

SHOP TONIGHT 'TIL 9 P.M.

# Burdick's

# INFLATION FIGHTERS

APPLI

WE BOUGHT THE WARE  
CREASES.  
MAJOR  
CORDERS

have not taken action to implement it.

The board has been unable to come to an agreement on aspects of a proposed desegregation plan prepared by a citizens committee last fall. And, since passage of Proposition 1, the anti-busing initiative passed on last November's state ballot, trustees are uncertain of the legal necessity of desegregating the district.

Valencia parent and attorney Jeff Hancock urged the School Board not to institute cross-district busing, saying "I thought Proposition 1 eradicated this. I'm familiar with de jure and de facto and all the rest of the garbage you want to lay out," Hancock said.

Hancock encouraged the board to resist pressures to bus children across the district, saying that they would be acting within the law in refusing more busing.

Proposition 1 mandates that only de jure segregation, brought about by intentional actions of the School District, must be alleviated, whereas previously districts had to desegregate regardless of the cause of racial isolation.

Some members of the board and the citizens committee suspect building of Aptos High and Junior High Schools, and other past school board actions, might be construed as intentional segregation.

But some Aptos parents disagreed.

Cabrillo instructor John Hunter said segregation in the district had been caused "by demographic and historical peculiarities."

Hunter described the district as "two clusters of populations being treated as an abstract entity. We are being asked to think of our district as a community when it is, in fact, two districts."

Calling busing an unacceptable solution to segregation, Hunter suggested that the district be redefined.

Some parents objected to the prospect of their children spending an hour daily riding buses between Aptos and Watsonville.

"The reason I'm living in the neighborhood I am is because my kids walk to school," Hancock told trustees.

Eileen Fernald predicted that active parents would cease to volunteer their time if their children attended schools far from their homes.

"I feel that if you force chil-