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Desegregation Issue

Aptos Resident, Pajaro District Reach Accord

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Aptos resident Billy Parker has reached an out-of-court agreement with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District over an alleged violation of the district's desegregation plan.

Under the agreement, Watsonville students who were transferred from Radcliff School to MacQuiddy School may return to Radcliff, if space is available.

Parker had contended that the district violated its desegregation plan by closing Radcliff and reassigning students to MacQuiddy School. Sending Radcliff's minority students to MacQuiddy made MacQuiddy a more segregated school, Parker

argued in Superior Court in October.

"At this stage, I'm happy," Parker commented on the agreement.

"I don't believe I could have gotten any more by continuing the case and having Judge (Donald) May decide it," Parker told The Sentinel.

Parker said he did not think that May would have ordered the 80 children transferred out of Linscott this year to return.

"I'm not sure that all families would want their kids returned," Parker said.

"I think the settlement is fair because it gives the people involved options. That was my main concern — that voluntary provisions of the desegregation plan be reaffirmed and that children not be sub-

ject to mandatory busing."

The district's desegregation plan, implemented this school year, relies on magnet schools and other voluntary measures to achieve integration.

The school board decided to close Linscott School, which taught kindergarten through third grades, because it was substandard.

This year, the kindergarten class was transferred out, and first and second grade students were to be reassigned next year.

"I'm pleased to resolve the matter so that the children will remain at MacQuiddy and will not have to return to Linscott," Pajaro Superintendent Jim Baker said.

"Some will have the option of returning to Linscott if space is available, but we don't anticipate any space available this year."

About 60 children are attending first and second grade at Linscott this year.

Next year, they will be able to attend Salsipuedes, MacQuiddy, or Mar Vista schools, if space is available and racial balance is not harmed. Transportation will be provided.

Under the settlement, the district also agreed to pay Parker's court costs of \$245.

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