

Members Quit

8-9-55

Resignations Are Not Accepted By Other Trustees

Williams, Hauschildt And Meek Say They Will Not Attend Future Meetings

The city school board was thrown into a state of further confusion when three board members—one of them the chairman—walked out with no intention of attending another meeting after their resignations were not accepted shortly before noon today.

Submitting a joint written resignation at a special meeting were Board Chairman Tom Polk Williams Jr., Trustees John H. Hauschildt and Gretchen A. Meek. It took only 28 minutes for the trio of Church, Gronen and Reed to pass a motion blocking the resignations.

"Many statements are assumptions and not facts," emphasized Mrs. Reed. "It is full of assumptions and not true." Mrs. Reed made the motion, and it was seconded by Hamilton Gronen, who substantiated Mrs. Reed's explanation for her motion by saying that the letter contained many "libelous statements."

Hauschildt and Harold Sundean, the new board member, refrained from voting, thus making a 3-2 vote, the same vote which put Sundean into office.

"None of the three of us will attend any of the future meetings," assured Williams.

District Attorney Charles L. Moore said after the meeting that a quorum is required to legally conduct a meeting of the board.

In this case, as long as four members of the school boards attend a meeting they can take any action. The legal definition of a quorum, as explained by the district attorney is "In the absence of any law or rule fixing the quorum it consists of a majority of those entitled to act."

Moore also pointed out that the school board does not have to accept the resignations as offered.

Appointment of Sundean was blasted by the trio in the letter, which said that "Our concern and protest is to the unprecedented, unethical and underhanded method employed to accomplish the appointment of a candidate selected days before the meeting in a secret caucus by Trustees Reed, Church and Gronen."

The letter goes on to say that the group took advantage of the health of Trustee Hauschildt who has been in ill health. Past events leave little room for speculation, says the letter, as to what these policies and courses of action will be. Tactics employed at the meeting with the intention of disrupting efforts to provide sound government are also mentioned.

Church did not seem to mind the attempted resignations of Hauschildt and Meek, but he appeared disturbed about the resignation of the chairman.

"I'm definitely surprised our chairman would take this action simply because he can't have this board all his way."

An amendment was made by Church to the original motion of Mrs. Reed, but it died for a lack of a second. The motion called for the acceptance of the resignations of Hauschildt and Meek.

Sundean disagreed with some of the statements in the letter. He felt that his name was linked with the term "majority" in the letter, which reads, "This group now constitutes a majority of both boards with control of policies and courses of action."

The new board member made clear to all present that he was not on either side of the split board.

"I don't belong to either side

of the controversy," he emphasized. "I don't know if I agree with anybody on the board."

"Those attending meetings have also seen the sabotaging of the rehabilitation of the high school buildings, the harassment of Mr. Hillman and Mr. Gould, the complete disinterest in other important phases of school government and the fantastic fixation on minor construction details such as ten penny nails and Venetian blinds," reads the letter.

"Our usefulness as board members has, as we feel, come to an end. The frantic minority has become the fanatic majority."

The two-page letter, bitterly denouncing the past actions of the school boards, says:

"The action taken by this letter is not only a protest to the conduct and tactics of this group, it is action taken with the sincere hope that it will shock the voters and awaken them to the appalling state in which the school district now finds itself.

"We deeply regret the necessity of leaving the board of education. We do so with assurance to the students, teachers, and citizens that we shall continue to be gravely concerned with the educational problems confronting the community. We shall continue to exert every effort to help solve problems. We are convinced that we can do so more effectively by leaving the boards."

Church denied the statements in the letter concerning the tactics of the group in obtaining another engineer for the Branciforte elementary school other than the one approved by a 6-1 board vote.

"This group awarded the Branciforte contract to a man whose methods and proposals had been soundly rejected by a six to one vote of the board," the letter said.

The Daseking-Janssen design team from Menlo Park was secured in preference to Hillman-Gould contingent only because they were closer to Santa Cruz, explained Church.

A delayed broadcast of the school board session will be on tonight at 7:30 o'clock by Station KSCO.

Ace Furniture Store Bought By Burdick's

Burdick's Television and Appliance has purchased the Ace Furniture company of 902 So-