

Change In Plan For Chesnut May Delay Hightower Appeal To Board

By HELEN ORDNER

Chesnut parents appeared greatly relieved Monday night after Board of Education members informally indicated support of a plan that would eliminate moving children from that school.

A vote on the proposal will be taken at the board's business meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday night, April 9.

This change will also affect Hightower where parents had already scheduled a meeting with the board Thursday night to appeal a board vote to close that school.

Norma Travis told fellow board members that she feels parents there deserve a hearing on the new information. She suggested that they may want to postpone the appeal scheduled for Thursday.

A decision had not been made Tuesday morning, pending a ruling from school attorney Gary Sams on legal aspects affected by the change.

Skyland parents are taking a survey to determine if they have the backing to appeal a Board of Education ruling to close that school, according to PTA president Ginnie Campbell.

They were scheduled for an appeal before the board but now have determined they will postpone making a decision on an appeal. They have until April 11 to make such a request.

THE ORIGINAL recommendation from superintendent Robert Freeman would have moved 111 students from Chesnut, making room for students being transferred from Hightower, which the board has voted to close.

Under the new proposal, the Kingsley attendance lines would be changed, adding a portion on the east side jutting down beside the Chesnut attendance zone. This plan involves moving 206 Hightower students to Kingsley and 138 to Chesnut.

The students being moved to Kingsley would be bussed on Peachtree Industrial and north on Tilly Mill, crossing through the Chesnut zone, according to transportation director Bill Simpson.

Board members said they favored the new plan which would disrupt two schools rather than three.

Chesnut father Ron Bachman, who was hopeful about the adoption of the new plan, said that it would be much better for Chesnut students. "It would be hard to explain to students," he said, "that your school has not closed. Your classmates are still here, but you have to leave and go somewhere else."

BOARD member Paul Womack asked school administrators to consider again having a summer program for fourth graders who have not acquired satisfactory reading skills.

When such a program was held three years ago for 950 students the lowest achieved an improvement measured at 30 days, while some students achieved progress that normally would have taken a school year, he said.

"When a child leaves the fourth grade, if they can't read, we haven't done them justice," said Womack.

Dr. Ruel Morrison, who is in charge of elementary instruction, said that such a program would cost \$300,000 and that present priorities call for adding a lead teacher to eight schools which do not have them. This would cost from \$175,000 to \$200,000.

Board members scheduled a work session at 6:30 p.m. Monday, prior to their regular business meeting, to discuss Womack's proposal.

The board Monday night will also vote on a proposal to move students from Knollwood Elementary School, which is overcrowded to Hightower.

court-appointed to oversee school integration, were told that students might be sent to Midway Elementary School.

Dr. Bill Strain said Monday night however, that such a move would violate the court order under which schools operate as it would involve moving a group including white children from predominantly black Knollwood to Midway, where most of the students are white.

The board is also slated to vote on the adoption of textbooks for DeKalb schools covering 20 areas. A group of 171 teachers, representing all schools in the system, has recommended the selection.

According to Elizabeth Andrews, board chairman, DeKalb is the only system in the nation where teachers select the books for the kids they teach.

The board will also vote on the adoption of a policy amendment which would require third graders to perform satisfactorily on achievement tests in order to be promoted.

ASBESTOS in Knollwood and Forrest Hills Elementary schools and Sequoyah High School will be removed during the summer months, according to Wilburn Adams, associate superintendent for business affairs.

In Forrest Hills asbestos is in classrooms in one wing and in the cafeteria. Knollwood has asbestos in two-thirds of the classrooms and it has been found in the Sequoyah cafeteria.

None of the asbestos is in a friable, or disintegrating state, according to Adams.

A low bid of \$149,480 has been received to remove asbestos from 11 other schools where it is "not a health hazard."

at school opening. Biracial Committee members approved the school action in placing the trailers there, on the condition that a boundary change would follow to correct the overcrowding.

At that time members of the committee, which is

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4-5-84 DeKalb Extra

DEKALB EXTRA

Chesnut students might get to stay

By Donna Williams
Lewis

Staff Writer

A plan to transfer more than 100 Chesnut Elementary School students to make room for new students from a nearby closed school could be scrapped.

DeKalb County school board members indicated almost full support Monday for a revised plan that would keep the Chesnut Elementary student body intact.

"It looks very nice — not moving the Chesnut students at all," said board member Norma Travis.

Under the original plan, 111 Chesnut Elementary students would have been transferred to King-

sley Elementary School. Chesnut would have taken in 248 students from Hightower Elementary School, which is slated for closing this summer.

The remaining 96 Hightower Elementary students would have been transferred to Kingsley Elementary.

But at the request of Chesnut Elementary parents, school officials developed a revised plan that does not require Chesnut Elementary transfers.

The new proposal, which may be considered at next Monday's board meeting, would move 206 Hightower Elementary students to Kingsley Elementary and 138 Hightower students to Chesnut

Elementary.

Both plans would leave at least 50 seats available at both the Kingsley and Chesnut schools, based on projected enrollments.

The school board is also considering moving the planned renovation of Forrest Hills Elementary School higher on the system's facilities plan priority list.

School officials found asbestos at the school after the priority list was developed, said Wilburn Adams, associate superintendent for business. If allowed by the school system and the state, officials will combine surplus state funds with local funds.

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4-5-84 DeKalb Extra

When 'Miss Kelly' talks, students listen

Dekalb girl gets to run a school

By JEN SANSEBURY
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3/27/02

No way was Chestnut Charter School Principal Claudia Kelly-Bazam going to bow to student pressure to declare Tuesday a no-homework day.

"I've been saying, 'No, that's why you come to school,'" she said.

"Miss Kelly" took her duties as "principal for a day" quite seriously, thank you. After all, the 7-year-old first-grader wants to be one when she grows up.

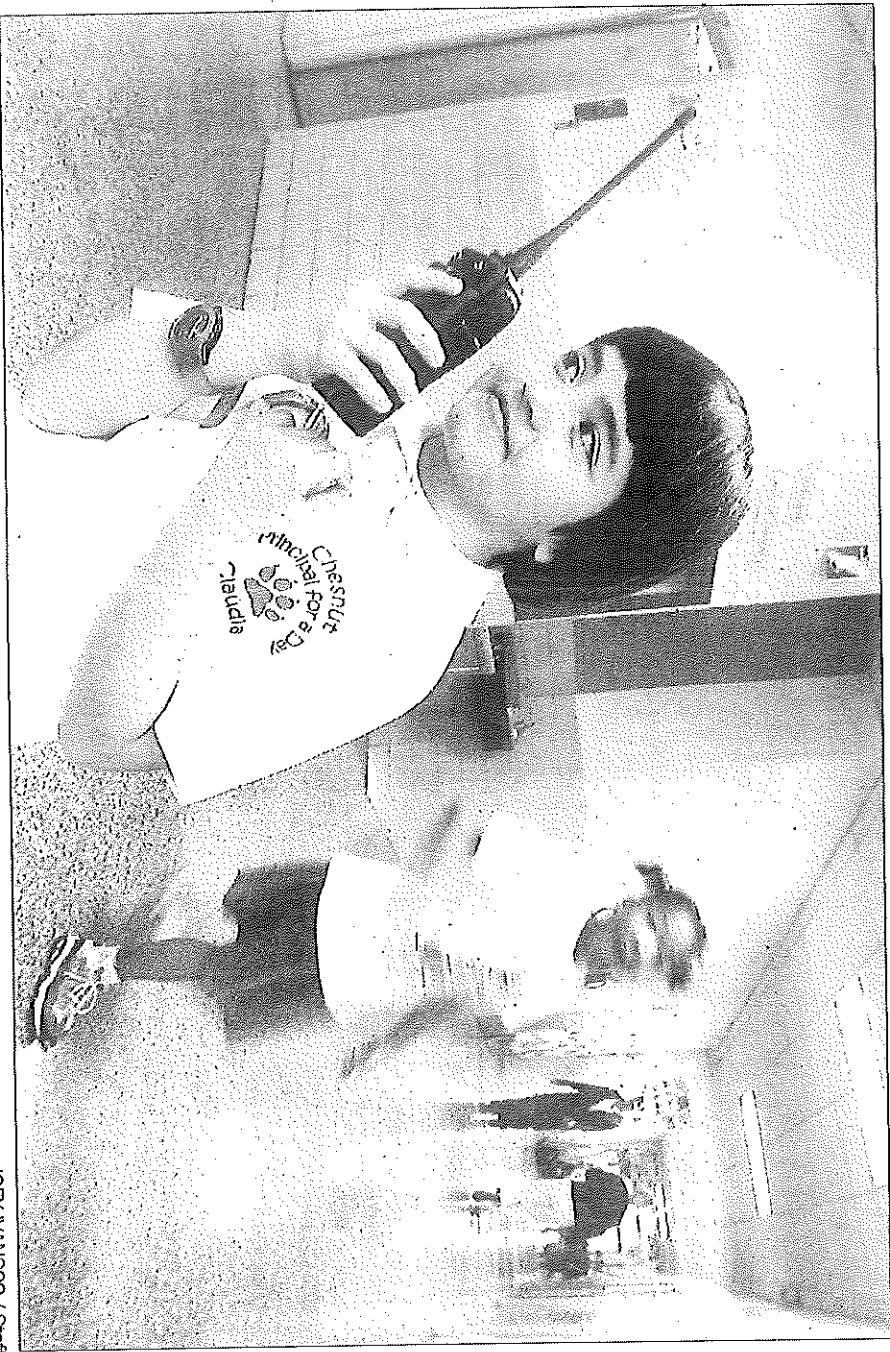
"I can work hard [as a principal] to make the world a better place," Claudia said. "I can help people to learn more things."

Her parents, Stephen Kelly and Rosa de Kelly of Dunwoody, spent about \$250 to buy Claudia's guest shot as principal as part of a PTA auction benefiting Chestnut's arts programs.

For her first — and only — day on the job, the pint-size principal wore a white blouse with her name and title embroidered on it and denim capri pants tie-dyed pink at the bottom. Her buckled blue shoes swung high above the floor when she sat at a table in the principal's office.

"I miss my friends, but I like being here," she said.

Claudia gave a tour, met with a DeKalb County school system administrator, took (pre-arranged)



Chestnut Charter Elementary School first-grader Claudia Kelly-Bazam stands at a hallway intersection Tuesday while serving as principal for a day. Her day in charge was purchased in a school auction.

JOEY MANSCO / Staff

phone calls from parents, visited classrooms — including her third-grade brother's — and helped conduct a tornado drill.

Beverly Cox, Chestnut's adult principal, tagged along to offer a little guidance.

"This is my way of maybe

inspiring a young person to go into education," Cox said. "I probably had more fun than she did."

The entire school played along, greeting Claudia with "Good morning, Principal" and "Hi, Miss Kelly."

"Can you let us go early?" fifth-grader Maggie Taylor asked. Claudia

shook her head.

Testing the little leader's resolve, a teacher asked for some time off to go shopping. Claudia denied that request, too. "I said... if you were sick or something like that, then I would let you go," she said. "But that's not really a good reason."

ADDRESS TO CHESTNUT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL :

Freedom Shrine Dedication

February 20, 1976

Good morning, it is indeed a pleasure to join you for the dedication of your Freedom Shrine. I'm sure you've worked very hard to make it a lasting contribution to our Bicentennial celebration, and you are all to be congratulated for your efforts.

As your representative from the government of DeKalb County, I feel a sense of togetherness as we reflect upon what the Bicentennial means---rededication within each of us to the principles of self-government, of the freedom to speak, to learn, to worship and to choose our way of life. It is these ideals that our Founding Fathers set forth in the Constitution 200 years ago, and it is these ideals we observe and cherish today.

This is basically what President Ford said in proclaiming 1976 the Bicentennial year. The President asked that all Americans reflect from time to time on the historic events of our past, on the heroic deeds of those whose legacy we now enjoy, and on the compelling visions of those who helped shape our constitutional government.

There are some big words in the President's statement, but these are big ideas we're talking about and your Freedom Shrine which we dedicate today, goes a long way toward expressing these ideas. There is symbolism here that conveys a true meaning to others.

As we proceed into this exciting year of our country's 200th birthday, we need to look in three different directions. Looking into our past history, we see the firm dedication of brave men and women who forged our national institutions and our values.

Here in DeKalb County we see a history rich in leadership. We find that the first settlers worked hard sowing the seeds of what is now a modern, urban, residential community. We have much to be proud of here in DeKalb County. We've come a long way.

The ~~second~~^{second} direction we look shows our culture, accumulated over the years as we have grown. In this direction, we take pride in our art, our literature, food, music, folk lore, the many stories both true and legendary about this great country of ours. We can also look with pride and amazement at the machinery, the technology that sent us to the moon, and runs our cars, factories, elevators, hospitals, and generating plants. Take a close look at the magic of radio, television, movies, photography and stereos. Think of all the things we enjoy as Americans, as Georgians, and residents of DeKalb.

The third and final direction we look in our Bicentennial observance is toward the future. Our "Horizons", our third century, is waiting to greet us, just around the corner.

Our dedication to the future, our pledge for tomorrow, is to make America a better place to live for generations which come after us. The staggering advance of technology has also brought pollution and other problems that need our work and our close attention. The environment, which we've heard so much about lately, needs our care to provide us with a good way of life.

Here in our urban surroundings, we can build mini-parks, provide

bike trails, recreation sites as well as clean up our own streets and backyards. There is much we can do to protect our future--- and remember, it's all part of the Bicentennial celebration.

And we can't forget the importance of education. This is vastly important for us today and for the future of our country. Learning is fun, it's exciting. As you sharpen your skills of reading, writing, math and science, you'll find it as adventurous as an airplane ride. And beyond that, education provides better leaders for government and industry, and in turn makes a stronger United States.

So remember the importance of these three directions as you go about the business of the Bicentennial---our history, both national and local, the culture and technology we enjoy today, and our pledge for a better future.

And never lose sight of the principles of Democracy, which are symbolized in your Freedom Shrine here today.