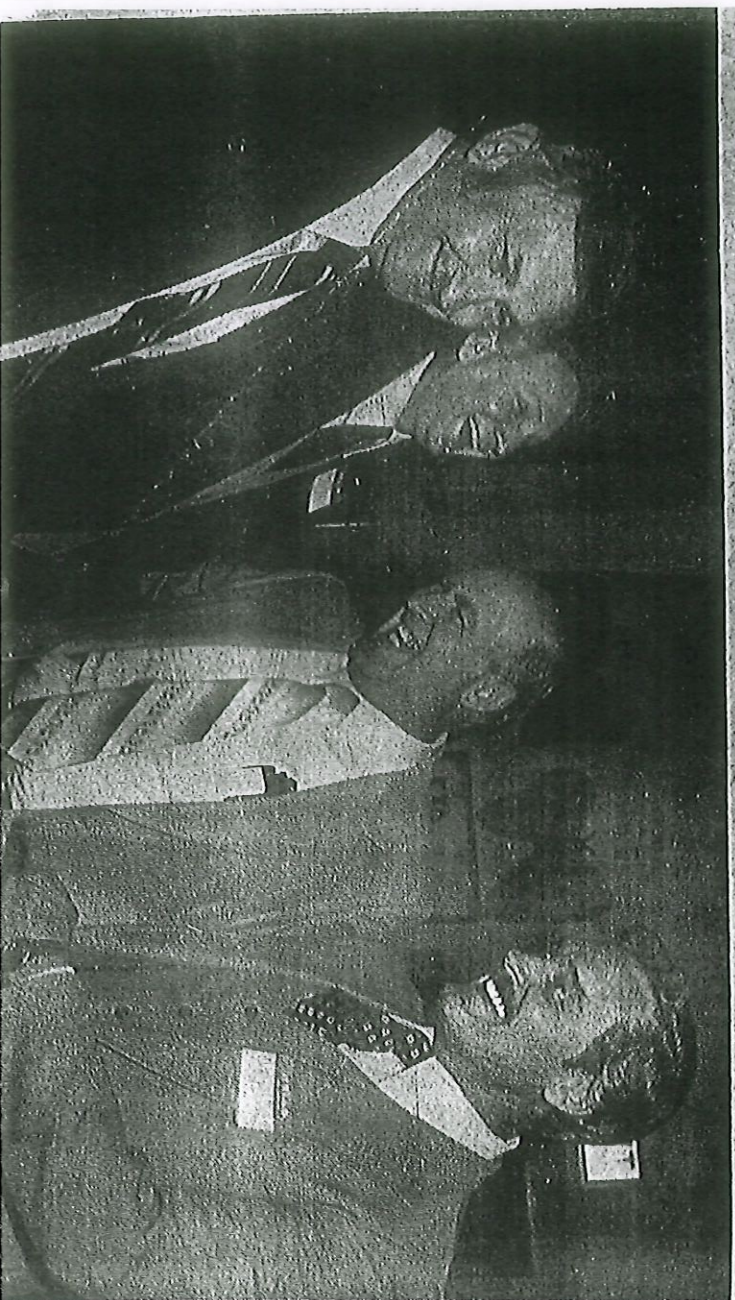




Allgood Honored

Conrad Allgood, former principal of Tucker Elementary School, was honored by family, friends, co-workers and community leaders at a reception held in his honor recently. Allgood, who retired after 26 years the Tucker School, was honored with the dedication of a Freedom Shrine donated to the school by the North DeKalb Exchange Club. In top photo, retired teachers attending the reception included (L-R) Flossie Moore, Reba Purcell, Emily Branson, Principal Allgood, Allie Buice and Mildred Turpin. School administrators in attendance were, bottom photo, (L-R) Dr. Clyde Holsclaw, Melvin Rozar, Allgood, and Bill Armistead. (Staff Photos By Charles Huentlev)



Tucker Parents Charge Closing Prompted By Money, Politics

By
SHERRON MARTINEZ
(Special
To The News/Sun)

Tucker parents asked "Why?" Monday night at the public hearing on the Board of Education's proposal to close Tucker Elementary School.

According to PTA president Ron Fowlie, they didn't get an answer.

The board, he said, gave "no real reason this school was chosen." They "arbitrarily picked four schools" in his opinion, he added, although there are six other elementary schools in the county with lower enrollment than Tucker's.

Lamar Meadows, speaking for the Tucker PTA, asked the board to "consider the facts and make long-range decisions, not those made quickly by political pressures placed on you...make plans not just for the year you're elected."

According to Meadows' calculations, the money the board said it would save by closing Tucker would come to "\$1.69 per taxpayer." He continued by questioning the board's recommendations for closure, which, he charged, are the result of

political pressure by the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce.

Tucker parent Fay Schwegel, a former DeKalb County teacher said "I do not want Tucker to close; however, if I were given a good reason, I could be convinced...a child is worth much more than books and busses and numbers."

Vina McIntosh directly asked the board at one point: "What is your educational plan? Why are you closing the school? Why are you doing that?"

There was no response from the board at first. Then Superintendent Freeman, after conferring with board members Paul Womack on one side of him and Elizabeth Andrews on the other, answered that the board is seeking "cost effectiveness in a climate where cost effectiveness is so crucial."

Freeman added that if the board closes ten elementary schools, for example, that the county could save three million dollars.

He told the group that the board has no alternative use in mind for the Tucker property, if it is closed, "which means that it would

be available for community bid."

TUCKER PARENT
Tom Hoffman asked the board about the safety of children being transported to the receiving schools, which include Livsey Elementary where a young pupil recently died after being stuck by a car at an intersection where parents have long asked for a traffic light.

Board Chairman Womack announced that the board and county officials had just voted unanimously to install a light at the intersection where the tragedy occurred.

"We don't want to have to buy another stop light the way that we bought this one," Hoffman answered.

Other concerns voiced by approximately 20 parents included the higher quality of education which they say that testing documents at Tucker, and the possible overcrowding at Midvale, Livsey and Smokerise Elementary schools where Tucker students would go.

Tucker parents contended that the enrollment figure for their school, used in calculations, was wrong,

and that two new housing developments in the area had not been considered in projections.

The parents maintained that they have an increasing population of younger children in the area which may require the board to reopen a closed school or to build another in the future.

They also expressed concern about the alienation of students who would be sent out of the area for elementary school and then brought back to high school, when they would then know few of their classmates.

In addition, Fowlie and several other parents accused the board of already having decided on the four school closings.

"Within 48 hours," Fowlie said, "you will make a decision. I, for one, believe you have already made it. If that's the case, then these meetings have been a sham by the Board of Education. I would like to have you prove me wrong on Wednesday night."

Several board members, along with Womack who spoke emotionally of sleepless nights, denied having reached a decision.

JUN. 8 1983

JUN. 6 1983

(Subject File: Tucker Elementary School)

Sherron Martinez

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Tucker Elementary Bought By County

By Debra Anderson

Neighbor Staff Writer

The purchase of Tucker Elementary School by DeKalb County has paved the way for a much-needed recreation and community center in the Tucker area.

"I think it's fantastic," said Bill Hawes, who is vice chairperson of the Tucker Recreation Center Advisory Board. "We're real pleased. We can't wait to get in there."

Hawes is referring to the smaller Tucker Recreation facility on Church Street. The center is so popular that it serves 1,500 people and has to turn away between 500-700, Hawes said.

The center serves these people in approximately 5,200 square feet of space. It also has no space for outdoor games.

"Right now we're so limited that we're stretching it to say we're a community center," Hawes said. To make it a true community center, we need more space."

The DeKalb Board of Commissioners approved terms of the sale by the DeKalb Board of Education last week.

The agreement calls for the two groups to obtain separate appraisals on the LaVista Road school site and reach an understanding on a purchase price within 90 days.

In turn, the county will have three years to sell its own surplus property and reimburse the school system for the elementary school.

Approximately 3.5 acres of the school grounds will be retained by the school system for use as a practice ballfield by the Tucker High School athletic department.

The elementary school was closed last fall due to declining enrollment and budgetary reasons, school officials have said.

Hawes said he hopes to move into the school by May. The structure will provide the space needed to accommodate senior citizens' activities, cultural programs, gymnastics and will provide more areas for ball practice, Hawes said.

January 18, 1984

Tucker DeKalb Neighbor

Tucker Needs Recreation Space

Empty School May Become Center

By DEBRA ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Tucker Recreation Center may be getting a new home. Plans for converting the empty Tucker Elementary School on La Vista Road into the center are being discussed by members of the DeKalb County Board of Education and the DeKalb County Commission's liaison committee.

The school was closed this fall because of declining enrollment.

Tucker needs a new recreation center, according to Bill Hawes. He is a member of the Tucker Recreation Center Advisory Board and president of the Tucker Youth Soccer Association.

Hawes and another advisory board member, Bill Cherry, met with the liaison committee last Wednesday to discuss the possibility of using Tucker Elementary as a recreation center.

"We are choking on our own success," Hawes said. "Right now we have 5,200 square feet at the center. We serve 1,500 people, ages two through senior citizen each quarter, and we turn between 500 to 700 interested students away. There is just not enough space there."

The present recreation center, located on 4316

Church St., has no space for outdoor facilities, and the gymnastics team can not hold home meets there because the ceiling is too low, Hawes said.

If the elementary school becomes the site for the center, Hawes said there are many potentials for its use. He cited a program for "latchkey children" as one. Latchkey children wear house keys around their necks to let themselves in their homes after school while their parents work.

The school would give the center 43,000 available square feet, Hawes said. This would enable the center to have a gymnasium and a "tremendous field for use in soccer, playground equipment, and we could have summer camp clinics," he said.

At the committee meeting, members discussed how to work out a possible trade with the school system for the closed school in exchange for some land the DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs Department owns, Hawes said.

The school system won't give it to us for free, and I don't blame them one bit," he said.

Hawes said school board member Joyce Hairston, who is on the liaison committee, will bring the matter up before the full school board soon.

subject files schools -
Tucker Elementary

Sept. 21, 1983 (Wed)
DeKalb Neighbor News

Ask archivist for access to the Tucker Elementary School

P.T.A. scrap books.