

Carver P-TA Group Petitions Trustees For New Building

A seven - member delegation of the Carver Colored School Parent-Teacher Association petitioned the school board Thursday night for an all-new school plant and for high school band instruction.

The new school plant, using the 'rule-of-thumb' currently considered in school construction, would cost an estimated \$1000 per student. Carver School has 193 students.

The delegation petitioned the board of the Georgetown Independent School district for new classrooms and gymnasium. They requested that the school be reconstructed on the same site. The plant presently includes a six-classroom 'main' building, a four-classroom Home Economics building, and the gym.

Under current State enrollment standards, Carver High School — with only 43 students — would not qualify for full-time band instruction. But the board requested that the Carver delegation draw up a proposed band program outline. The delegation also requested that the board buy basic instruments,

such as a snare drum, base drum and tuba. Further consideration of the band proposal is due at a future board meeting.

THE BUILDING proposal is due further discussion at the January session of the board.

Superintendent Joe Barnes, who had already been making an extensive study of the whole school district's future building requirements, is expected to make recommendations to the board in January — not only concerning the Carver building program, but also to include other possibilities.

Barnes states that school construction, in this particular district, is based on several major factors:

1) Curriculum - new state requirements that four years of science be offered will affect any future building.

2) Enrollment - indications are that enrollment here may climb sharply in the next few years, especially depending upon the current U. S. Supreme Court decision and upon decisions concerning continued maintenance of four - year high schools in Jarrell and Liberty Hill. This may call for a Junior High School.

— and, finally, the major bug-a-boo —

3) Finances - the present retirement schedule on bonded indebtedness through 1981 is the maximum the district can afford under tax structure now in effect. It now takes 32 cents of each \$1.50 of the tax rate to retire indebtedness. The State would allow 50 cents of the tax rate to be used to retire indebtedness, but Barnes says that the difference remaining would not be sufficient to operate the schools now in existence.

4) Accreditation - also enters the picture since whole school districts, rather than individual schools, are now given - or refused - accreditation. It is possible that, as an example, the condition of curriculum and building facilities at Carver, could cause the whole Georgetown Independent School District to lose its accreditation.

Taylor and Round Rock are now undergoing State inspection by an accreditation committee. Barnes says that he feels sure an inspection of Georgetown will come soon.

THE DELEGATION from Carver at last Thursday night's meeting included the Mmes. A. B. Miller, P-TA president; LaRue Spicer, vice president, Zilper Parker, secretary; Marvin Johnson, business manager; Tommie L. Shanklin, Miss Idella Taylor and Mr. Harvey Miller.

ONLY 'MILD' TROUBLES

State Accreditation Board Inspects School Plant Here

A three-man accreditation team from the State Education Agency made a one-day visit to Georgetown last week in a mildly successful search for trouble spots.

Their report, received Thursday by Superintendent Joe Barnes, outlined "deficiencies" in the local schools and contained the recommendation that our officials be "warned of conditions which do not meet accreditation standards."

Supt. Barnes told the SUN that he had made a number of copies of the report and distributed them to members of his teaching and administrative staff and that he had gone over the report with members of the school board, which met briefly Friday noon.

Mr. Barnes said that he would file a reply or "rebuttal" to the State Agency on some of the points brought out. Another, and final, report would be made by the Agency. It, too, would be in the form of a warning.

"There is no chance that Georgetown will lose its accreditation," the Superintendent emphasized.

The School Board authorized Mr. Barnes to give a full report of the report to the SUN, asking that it

be printed so that the general public would know where, how and why the school is deficient in some respects. One section of the report, which deals with specific teachers who are short in a few college courses they need in their teaching, is not published by choice of the newspaper. The information is available at the superintendent's office to anyone wishing to check on it.

Here is the report:

Georgetown Independent School District covers a 155 square mile area in Williamson County. The assessed valuation of property for school tax purposes is \$14,221,165. This amount is more than double the 1959 - 60 value as the result of a program of reevaluation recently completed. Most taxable property consists of agriculture and ranching land. Property is assessed at 60 pct. of actual value. The tax rate is 85 cents, of which 65 cents is for maintenance and operation

and 20 cents for the retirement of bonds. Bonded indebtedness is \$390,000.

School board minutes were kept in a bound volume; however, minutes of some meetings were not signed. An examination of the board minutes indicated that on various occasions the board had made decisions of a policy nature, but these had not been compiled into a formal administrative document.

The three campus units operated by the district consisted of the twelve-grade Carver School, Georgetown Elementary School, and Georgetown Junior - Senior High School. An eight-four plan of instructional organization was used in the Carver School and a six-six plan in the larger Georgetown School.

The Carver School had a total enrollment of 171 students and a staff of eight teachers, including the principal. The services of a part time music teacher were available on a cooperative basis with the county schools. One of the teachers at the Carver School taught a class of special education for retarded children in the elementary grades.

A staff of twenty-two classroom teachers and a special music teacher served the Georgetown Elementary School which had an enrollment of 570 students. In addition, a full-time principal was employed.

The Georgetown Junior - Senior High School had an enrollment of 541 students and a faculty of twenty - one classroom teachers, three vocational teachers (two homemaking and one agriculture), a librarian, a band director, a counselor, and a full-time principal.

It appeared that most of the deficiencies observed in the Georgetown schools resulted from lack of finances adequate to provide facilities, equipment and supplies with which to operate an accreditable school program. These deficiencies are described as follows:

1. Physical facilities at the Carver School were sub-standard. The masonry building and the converted barracks did not reflect appropriate maintenance and custodial care. Classroom light-

ing was poor, window shades were lacking, restrooms were damp and unventilated, water fountains inoperable, storage facilities were severely lacking, chalk and bulletin boards were in poor condition and there were not enough classrooms available to properly house the number of classes operated.

The classroom used for the special education class was too small to properly accommodate the number of students. In addition, the unsightly condition of the ceilings, walls and floors was not conducive to a good classroom environment. The central library was housed at the rear of the English classroom and was not readily accessible to students and teachers. Book shelves in this room were too high to permit students easy access for checking out books.

The site on which Carver School is located is unimproved and lacks landscaping. In addition, there were no suitable facilities for instruction in health and physical education.

Storage space at the Georgetown Elementary School was especially limited in the classrooms, administrative offices, and book room. Due to the unavailability of a room for visual instruction, films are shown behind the curtain on the stage in the cafetorium.

Storage facilities at the Georgetown Junior-Senior High School were severely limited in classrooms, offices, and science laboratories. These conditions have been described in a Facilities Survey Report made recently by the School Plant Division of the Texas Education Agency. The laboratory used for chemistry, general science, and physics instruction contained tables for only sixteen pupils, but individual enrollments in each class were much larger than the number of pupil stations provided.

State Accreditation Board

Laboratory tables were badly marred and worn; however, most of the outlets for utilities were still functioning. In some instances, classroom space was too limited to accommodate the number of students properly. On the day of the accreditation visit, girls' physical education was being conducted in the cafeteria because of inclement weather and lack of space. The homemaking department was housed in separate rooms. There was no living area provided.

2. Adequate instructional aids and materials were not provided for all areas of the curriculum. For example, speech is offered to Georgetown High School seniors only, and may be substituted for fourth-year English, but the room in which speech is taught was so crowded that a suitable arrangement for a speaker-audience situation was almost impossible. The classroom collection of plays and other materials for speech instruction were limited, as was the collection in the library. Although a record player was available, such equipment as a tape recorder and program tapes was not readily available.

The budget for the 1960-61 school year indicated allocation of funds for instructional materials on an equitable per-teacher basis, but some teachers appeared uncertain as to what they could requisition. Other teachers indicated with certainty that they would be able to spend \$10 each for instructional materials.

Learning aids such as maps, globes, and charts were very limited in all Georgetown Schools. Instructional aids at the Carver School were even more limited.

3. An examination of teacher personnel records indicated the following deficiencies:

(deletion - four teachers in the white schools and one in Carver were said to be short on college credits in their particular fields)

4. Excessive classroom enrollments were observed in the following grades:

A Combination first and second grade class at Carver School had 37 students enrolled. A second-period plane geometry class at Georgetown High School had an enrollment of 38 students. Thirty-six students were enrolled in the fourth-period algebra class at Georgetown High School.

In addition to the above overloads, there were 27 students in the first period chemistry class, 23 students in the third period biology class, 28 students in the fourth period general science class, 26 students in the fifth period biology class, and 20 students in the sixth period biology class; all these classes were being held in a laboratory designed to accommodate only 16 pupils.

5. The instructional program at the Carver School was severely hampered by lack of an adequate staff. No electives were available to high school students and all took a prescribed course of study. Due to the limited faculty and the limited classroom space, many study hall and class combinations had to be held, thus further impeding instruction and study. Four periods at the Carver School was provided for girls, but there were no courses of vocational intent for boys.

6. There were no formal compilation of board policies provided in the Georgetown Independent School District.

7. A system-wide in-service educational program was not provided. The Georgetown Elementary School does receive the services of a University of Texas consultant on ten separate days during the year; however, this type of service was provided only for the elementary school.

8. Services provided in the area of testing, guidance and counseling at Georgetown High School were limited. There was no written guidance plan and no follow-up record available on dropouts and graduates. Carver High School did not have a formal guidance program.

9. Physical education instruction for boys appeared to consist mainly of seasonal sports with a few self-testing and other activities designed for physical fitness development on the part of the students.

10. The Georgetown Junior-Senior High School library was ably administered by a fulltime certified librarian; however the following deficiencies were noted in the library program, facilities, and materials:

Library quarters were too small to serve adequately the student body of over 500 students. The reading area was too crowded for an average size class of thirty pupils.

Bond proposal information issued in June 1962 by the Board of Trustees, Georgetown Independent School District.

GEORGETOWN

Independent School District

Information About the Proposed Bond Issue For Improvements and New Construction in this District:

Why Are Improvements and New Buildings Needed?

Improvements to existing buildings, and the construction of new buildings are necessary to satisfy the Texas Education Agency. This Agency has pointed out deficiencies that the Georgetown ISD can correct by the proposed new construction. Some of these corrections: — completely new facilities for the Carver school, the new facilities to provide improvement in the instructional program, particularly in vocational work; — improved library facilities at Carver school; — improved health and physical education at Carver school; — more room (s) in order to eliminate excessive classroom enrollments in the lower grades at Carver school; — more room in Georgetown white schools to provide more space for science and other curriculum improvements and the use of better teaching aids.

The new Junior High School will provide this extra space in both the Elementary School and Georgetown High School, enabling a library facility, special instruction labs and other improvements in the Elementary School; and enabling more facilities for science and home economics and other courses in the present High School.

Who Can Vote?

All residents of Georgetown Independent School District who own property within the district and have said property rendered for taxation are eligible to vote. Also the voter must have paid his poll tax or have an exemption, must have been a resident of the State for one year, and a resident of the County for six months.

Where Will Election Be Held?

DATE: Saturday, July 7, 1962

TIME: 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Georgetown — fire station;
Walburg — General Store

How Much Will It Cost?

Remodeling of present buildings, the proposed new buildings, and other attendant costs will total \$525,000.00. This may be broken down as follows:

ESTIMATED COST SUMMARY

Elementary Additions	\$ 33,696.00
West Side School	142,640.00
Junior High School	195,763.00
Senior High School	32,440.00
Band Hall: Existing High School, 2232 S.F.	\$ 17,856.00
Estimated Total Con- struction Cost	\$432,395.00
Fees & Legal Expenses	\$ 30,000.00
Land	3,000.00
Parking & Landscaping	10,000.00
Equipment	40,000.00
TOTAL	\$497,539.00

In addition to the above, a sum of about \$10,000 is included in case of emergency costs of foundations and utility extensions.

What Does This Mean Taxwise?

It means that an 'average' property owner who has property valued at \$10,000.00 will have to pay only \$12.00 a year more in school taxes. The district's present tax rate is 85c on the \$100.00 valuation. To do the remodeling and building proposed, to equip them and to maintain them from year to year would take a total of 20c on the \$100 valuation. This would make the 'new' tax rate only \$1.05, still well within the \$1.50 allowed by law.

Statement by the Board of Trustees

The proposal of this bond issue of \$525,000.00 is now up to the voters of Georgetown Independent School District. As your elected Board of Trustees we have given this matter hours upon hours of exhaustive examination; and at this point we believe we have reached a solution that will provide the children of Georgetown ISD very good school facilities. "Ideal" facilities

would cost as much as \$1,200,000.00. But \$525,000.00 is more practical and will provide essentials without unnecessary frills. We do not believe that adequate facilities can be built for less.

We, therefore, urge that you vote FOR this bond issue at the polls on Saturday, July 7, 1962.

Signed —

Carl Doering

Lester Ihms

R. W. Gamble

J. D. Thomas

H. R. Gaddy, Jr.

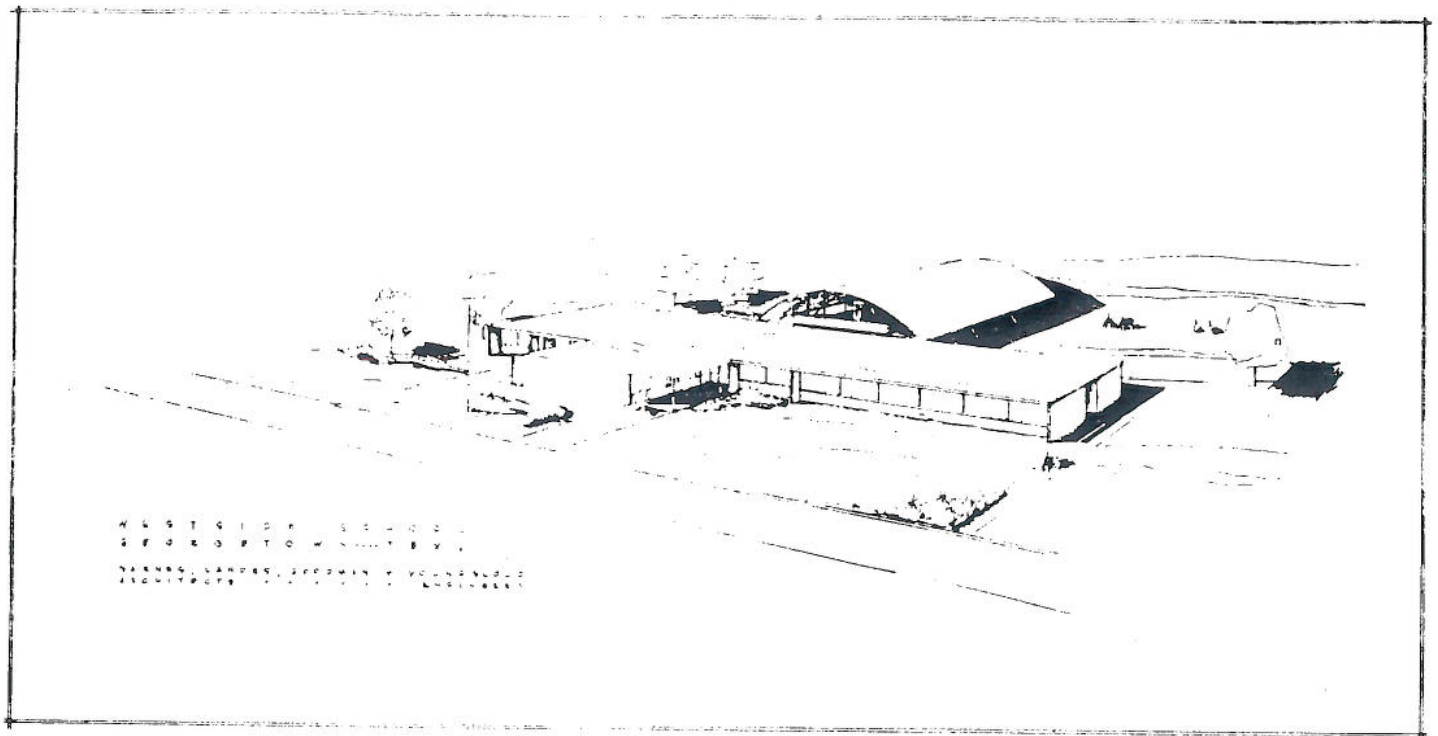
Jay Wolf

John Hanusch



Georgetown Independent School District
Georgetown, Texas

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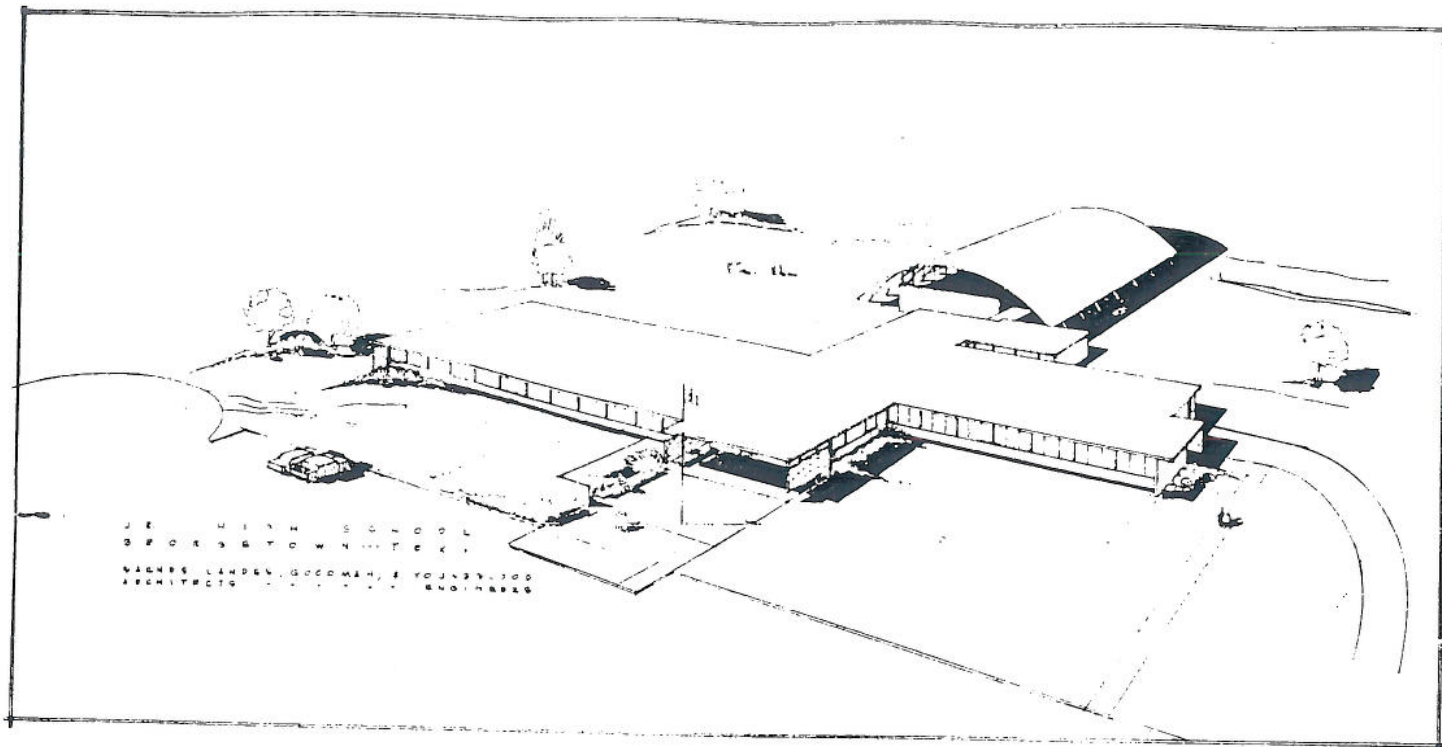


WHAT THE PROPOSED WESTSIDE SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE:

The proposed new Westside School, to completely replace the old Carver system, would have 12 classrooms, a library, a food serving area, a multi-purpose room (cafetorium, study hall etc.), a stage for dramatic productions, office facilities, a teachers' work room, a book room and janitor's closet. Toilets and dressing/shower rooms would be installed so that they could be used by students and used also to serve an immediately adjacent covered play area. The main building to serve grades one through 12, enrollment 166, would have 14,240 square feet, would cost an estimated \$121,040.00. The covered play area of 5400 square feet would cost \$21,600.00. Total proposed cost: \$142,640.00 — or \$859.27 per student.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

New facilities planned at the Elementary School include a new library, 1344 square feet, at a cost of \$12,096.00; and a new covered play area of 5400 square feet, at a cost of \$21,600.00. Total estimated cost: \$33,696.00. Four additional rooms will be gained in the Elementary School by moving the sixth grade to the proposed new Junior High School. These rooms are needed for special education classes, a teachers' work area and lounge.



WHAT THE PROPOSED JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL WILL PROVIDE:

The proposed new Junior High building will include 12 classrooms, two science lecture laboratory rooms, and facilities for arts and crafts, a library, school-book room, storage and janitor's supply, a multi-purpose cafetorium, food service area, stage, work room, offices, teachers' work area and lounge, toilets and dressing rooms/showers. Here again, the dressing rooms-showers will serve an adjacent covered play area of 5400 square feet at a cost of \$21,600. The main classroom building will have 20,478 square feet, will cost about \$174,163.00. Total cost: \$195,763.00 or \$574.08 per student.

Plans here are for 341 students, including enrollments of the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. Sixth graders will free 4 rooms of space in the elementary school. Seventh and eighth grades will make more space available in the High School.

PROPOSED REMODELING IN THE HIGH SCHOOL

Proposals for the high school building include patching and repainting where needed (\$13,440.00), complete remodeling of Home Economics and Science Facilities (\$15,000.00) and repair of floors on the first floor area (\$4,000.00) — Total Cost, \$32,440.00.

The Austin American
mainly about
WOMEN

Wednesday, Aug. 15, 1962

Page 8—Austin, Texas

Court Calls Integration Case Today

By WRAY WEDDELL Jr.

Central Texas News Editor

GEORGETOWN — A squabble over public school integration in his well shaded old town is due its first day in court Wednesday morning.

Up for a 9 a.m. hearing before 16th District Court Judge D. B. Wood is an injunction suit which seeks to block school board plans for construction of a new 12-grade school for Negroes on Georgetown's west side.

Filed for 16 taxpayers of the district, the suit challenges the board's right to spend public funds to "perpetuate segregation."

The Negro school is a unit in a building program to be financed from a \$525,000 bond issue given unopposed voter approval last month. Set aside for it is \$142,000.

Apparently Wednesday's hearing is only the first move in court by a new organization known as the "Committee for Better Schools." All of the petitioners on the injunction suit are members of the committee.

The Austin attorney who filed the suit for the committee, Price Ashton, has said he will go into Federal Court if Negro students are denied admission to white schools here next month.

Only about 150 Negro students are involved. All attend classes in an old building which has been condemned by the State Education Agency.

The better schools committee, organized in April lays claim to membership among businessmen, ministers, members of the Southwestern University faculty, doctors and lawyers.

The people who later organized the committee sponsored petitions filed with the school board in early April asking for a referendum on integration.

The board in May turned down the petitions, giving improper form as the reason.

The committee is still little known here, although the subject of much talk. Who are its members? What is their purpose?

Some of its members provided the answers in an Austin American interview Tuesday.

They said they were working for integration because:

It is the "law of the land" as set forth by the US Supreme Court, for moral and religious reasons, and because to spend public funds for a segregated school is "economic folly."

The group also said it felt that it is better for local people to take the leadership instead of an outside group — namely NAACP.

Chairman of the committee is George Nelson, member of the music department faculty at Southwestern University.

"If we're successful in our action and bring about integration, we will save our school system at least \$100,000," Nelson said.

Nelson said he has no doubt that integration will soon be a fact here, coming either from local action or court order.

Mrs. John Cardwell, the committee's publicity chairman, said of the effort to end segregation, "We feel that it is morally right and will improve the community."

Other members of the committee's executive board include the Rev. Robert T. King, a Negro minister, vice chairman; Mrs. Norman Spellman, wife of a Southwestern professor of religion-philosophy, secretary; Father Joseph Pawlecki of St. Helen's Catholic Church, chairman of the group's social and moral perspective committee;

Ed Harris, former president of the Chamber of Commerce, chairman of a "political concerns" committee; W. K. McClain, former district attorney, chairman of a "legal aspects" committee; and Jesse Valdez, long time Georgetown resident, and Harvey Miller, Negro scoutmaster, members at large.

In its bylaws, the committee states these goals: "The highest level of education, the most economic use of public funds, and equal opportunity for all pupils of Georgetown."

School Problems Headed For Court

Some of Georgetown's school problems will receive a judicial answer (probably within a month) as a result of an injunction filed Wednesday in Federal District Court in Austin. The injunction challenges the right of continued segregation in the schools here and asks the Court to rule on the question.

Price Ashton, Austin attorney filed the suit on behalf of 29 Negro children (26 from Georgetown and 3 from Florence) who had applied for admission to the white schools in Georgetown. The children were joined in the petition by their parents or guardians.

Wednesday's court action came as a result of a School Board meeting on Monday night at which time the application of the Negro children was rejected.

Lack of facilities was the major cause listed by the school board in denying the application.

The motion to deny admission reads as follows:

"The Board of Trustees of the Georgetown Independent School District has no alternative but to deny the application of the 26 Negro children for enrollment in white schools for the reasons hereinafter stated. We have long been aware of the serious inadequacies of the scholastic facilities presently provided for colored students in Georgetown, and we intend to correct these as much as possible when permitted to do so. At this time there are crippling deficiencies in the Georgetown Elementary, Junior High and Senior High Schools for a number of reasons—one of the main ones being space, as the schools are now overcrowded.

Continuing, "Our building program would solve virtually all of

the inadequacies in the Negro School as well as in the white schools but this program is currently handicapped by an untimely suit seeking to enjoin the construction of the Westside School brought by a minority group known as the 'Committee for Better Schools.' This suit attempts to evade the expressed will of the majority of voters in the district and it also is discriminatory against the colored people in that it deprives them of these needed facilities.

Motion continued, "We do not blame these students for attempting to seek a better school, but we request them to be patient until the injunction suit is disposed of and the building program completed. Because of the severe crowding of all facilities in Georgetown at this time and other valid reasons the Board feels compelled to deny the application at this time."

In other business conducted Monday night, the board voted to retain the current tax rate of 85 cents per \$100.00 valuation; accepted the resignation of Mrs. Mildred Ferguson Paine and Miss Eva Marie Mosby, both from Carver School; employed Mrs. Naomi Huggs, Mrs. Janie Cadd Wilson and Mrs. Joyce Nadine Mays to teach at Carver; and granted a one month leave of absence to Mrs. Merle P. Weir and a one year leave of absence to Miss Barbara Barnett.

Board Chairman Carl J. Doering presided over the one hour and a half session which was attended by the full board—Dr. R. W. Gamble, Dr. H. R. Gaddy, Lester Sims, John Hanusch, Jay Wolf, J. L. Thomas, Jr., and William S. East. School Board attorney and Joe Barrax, school superintendent.

July 29, 1965

Mr. Nicholas Katzenbach
Attorney General of U. S.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am Harvey Miller, a negro parent of four children. Three of my children are attending the Georgetown Public School System.

In 1962, we, with other negro parents in Georgetown, Texas, filed a law suit in the United States District Court, at Austin, Texas, to have the Georgetown School System integrated. At this hearing, Judge Rice, who was then District Judge, ordered the Georgetown Independent School District integrated at one grade per year, starting with the first grade. We appealed this decision to the Fifth Circuit at New Orleans. At this hearing in New Orleans, the order of the District Court was affirmed. We did not appeal to the Supreme Court. As the matter now stands, the Georgetown Independent School District is ordered to integrate one grade per year. Starting this September, the Georgetown School District will be integrated at first, second and third grades. We do not feel that this system of integration is right. We believe that the entire school system should be integrated as they have had ample time since 1954 to integrate the entire system. I have one child in the 11th grade, 9th grade and 5th grade. If this system continues my children will never attend an integrated school system. It is common knowledge and a fair statement to say, that the negro schools in Georgetown do not receive the same type of education as given to the white children. The same courses are not given in the negro schools that are given in the white schools, and it is unfair and not an equal opportunity for my children to obtain the same type of education as is granted to the white pupils of this area.

For your information, I have requested the School Board to permit my children, and other negro students, to attend the school of their choice in Georgetown in September of 1965. This means that I have asked for free transfers to any school by any student. This request has, in substance, been denied. I am, therefore, writing you calling this to your attention and asking that some action be taken which will permit the negro students to attend the school of their choice in Georgetown.

I also wish to call to your attention that the School Board has not employed any negro teachers in what is called the white school system; on the contrary they have employed a white principal for the negro school. We feel that this matter should also be called to your attention.

I am attaching to this letter a statement which I have handed to the School Board requesting the public school system to be integrated; or to give any negro student in this school district the right of a choice. To date, the school district has taken no action on this matter and they have indicated very strongly that they feel no action will be taken.

The Georgetown Independent School District is receiving Federal Aid and is enjoying all the other benefits of the Federal Government in the operation of this school. We feel that we have the same right as any other person to attend the school of our choice in this District.

We feel very strongly that the Georgetown Independent School District should be integrated on the same basis as all other schools are being integrated in Texas; we feel that Georgetown should not be made an exception and be permitted to integrate one grade per year, thus penalizing the negro students in this District.

We most respectfully call this matter to your attention, and urge you, in your office, to take such action as is necessary to correct this situation.

Thanking you, I am,

Yours very truly,

Harvey Miller
Harvey Miller

cc: Mr. David S. Seeley
Equal Education Opportunity Program
Dept. of Health, Education & Welfare

Mr. Allen Lesser, Director
Federal Asst. Program Staff
Washington, D. C.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Address Reply to the
Division Indicated
and Refer to Initials and Number

JD:EH:ddc #42-491-1
DJ 169-76-2

AUG 4 1965

Mr. Harvey Miller
Route 3, Box 157
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Dear Mr. Miller:

This will acknowledge your letter of July 29, 1965, regarding integration of the Georgetown Public School System.

Your concern over the situation is shared by this Department. We are currently carefully investigating and studying all facts of the problem with a view to possible action of an appropriate nature in the near future.

Sincerely,

JOHN DOAR
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

By: *John I. Murphy*
JOHN I. MURPHY
Chief, Western Section