

U.S. News & World Report

"NEIGHBORHOOD" SCHOOL SYSTEM IN DANGER?

Story Back of School Boycotts

Now it's white people who are going to court to sue for their civil rights.

Their fight is to save neighborhood schools.

The danger they see is spreading from city to city throughout the North—wherever Negroes find schools that are almost all-Negro. It's not the kind of segregation you find in the South.

But Negroes call it illegal—and say that the "neighborhood" school system is to blame.

Under pressure of boycotts, some cities already are busing children to schools outside their home areas to get a "better racial balance."

But white resistance is rising—and a legal battle is heading toward the U.S. Supreme Court.

Americans suddenly are waking up to the fact that their traditional system of "neighborhood" schools is in danger. Negroes are attacking the

Negroes are attacking that system in one Northern city after another. The recent rash of school boycotts in New York, Chicago, Boston and other cities is part of that attack.

As the Negro attack spreads across the North, white resistance is rising. White parents are organizing. Legal sources from yielding to Negro demands.

What Negroes demand in

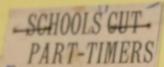
NEW YORK'S NEWEST INTEGRATION PLAN





"School pairing" is to begin next September. It works this way. A school with or





Brain Says Most Classes Will End By November

By ADAM CLYMER

Most part-time classes will be eliminated by November 1, Dr. George B. Brain, superintendent of schools, said yesterday.

Dr. Brain reported that 80 to 50 per cent of parents agreed eagerly when asked if they would accept transportation to get their children out of part-time classes.

Me said the percentage was only a "preliminary report" because school principals had found it difficult to get in touch with many parents during the summer, and said he would not guess how many children would be left on part-time classes.

School officials have announced plans to transport about 4,700 children from overcrowded schools on part-time schedules to classrooms in 41 schools. (Last year only 1,600 children were transported.) They said last week that if all parents accepted bus transportation, they could eliminate part-time classes by using between 70 and 30 new portable classrooms.

11,202 On Part Time

Last year 11,202 children were on part-time schedules, getting only four hours of school each day instead of the regular five. Two part-time classes meet in one classroom, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Only the heaviest overcrowding

School Board Policy

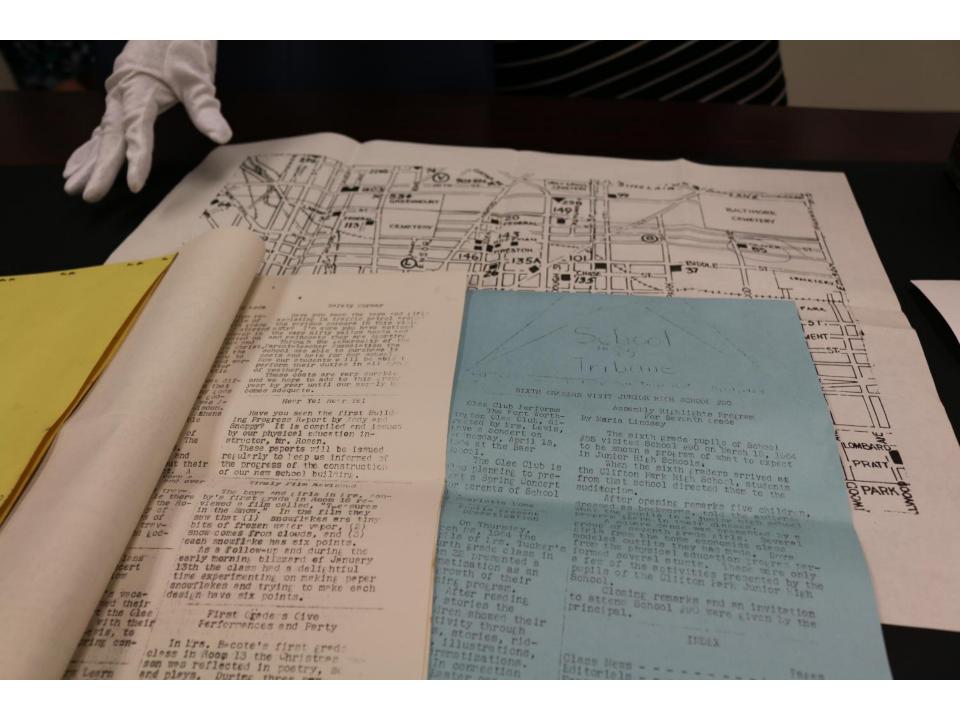
The record of the Baltimore school system on desegregation has been an exemplary one ever since the 1954 Supreme Court ruling. The policy stated soon after that decision was firm and it has been consistently implemented. Moreover, its application has been singularly successful in the avoidance of ugly incidents. The city accepted the change with good will and understanding. There has been a steady development of the basic policy over the course of the past decade. In June the School Board took two new steps to continue the progress that had been made. It announced that this fall boundaries would be removed from the schools that were districted and that requests for transfers from one school to another "for educational or other reasons" would be granted except when overcrowding made the transfer unfeasible.

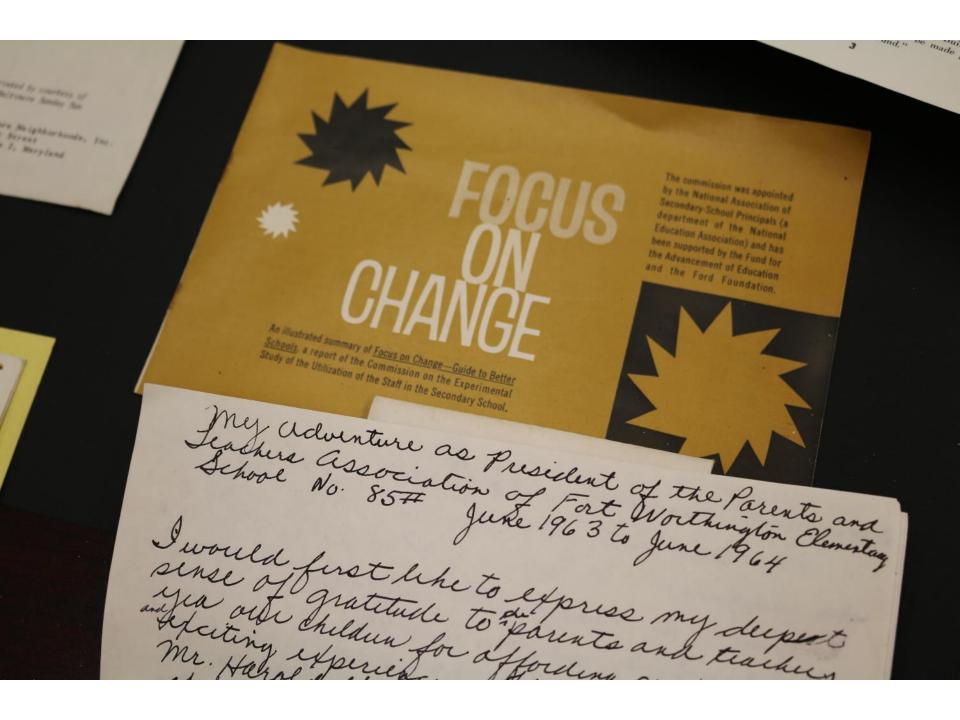
The board's latest policy statement is in keeping with the wise course which has been followed. The present problems which confront it are two and although they overlap to some extent they are essentially separate. The one is to relieve the pressure as

School Transfers

Opponents of the School Board's new policy of transporting children from overcrowded schools to others with free space are losing sight of an important point. The overriding obligation of school officials is to provide the best possible education for all pupils in the city. Whatever merits there are in the neighborhood school concept—and there are some—they cannot deflect the School Board from fulfilling its primary responsibility. As a result of the new policy almost 5,000 pupils in the city who otherwise would have attended split-shift schools, and received the equivalent of four days' education a week instead of five, will receive the full school experience which is their right.

The debate over the transfer policy has unfortunately got off on the wrong track. Implicit in virtually all of the objections to it is a racial argument. The grossly overcrowded schools are largely inner-city schools, which means their student bodies are overwhelmingly Negro. The newer schools, with spare rooms, are in outlying sections not yet fully developed, whose







Fort Worthington School sees another crowded year

tary School No. 85, Lakewood Ave., and Oliver St., is the jammed into 26 classrooms Within the building, or ty needs and safety meas-

number. The portable units building and portables, a n d help very much.

and eight additional portable ganized safety council's i x ures. units, and it's likely to re- grade pupils and teachers units, and it's likely to remain so at least for another year.

Originally built to house 624 pupils, the school now has some 1,500 in excess of that with the school that with the portables; and automatic fire alarm system different pupils and teachers direct pupils traffic through of transporting children to No. 209, 1101 Winston Ave., was tried, but laments Mr. Galperin, "We have so many children involved, it doesn't help yery much."

Fort Worthington Elemen- Morse Elementary No. 99." the ground clear of distrub-

BOTH TEACHERS and pu- Finally, the school gets expils assist in the school - wide treme co - operation from most overcrowded school in safety program so necessary parents in the neighborhood Baltimore with 2140 pupils in an overcrowded condition. who alert office to communi-

AN ADDITIONAL measure





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ON WEEK , 1963

school year.

Together, the existing facility and the one new rising will ac-

decided to

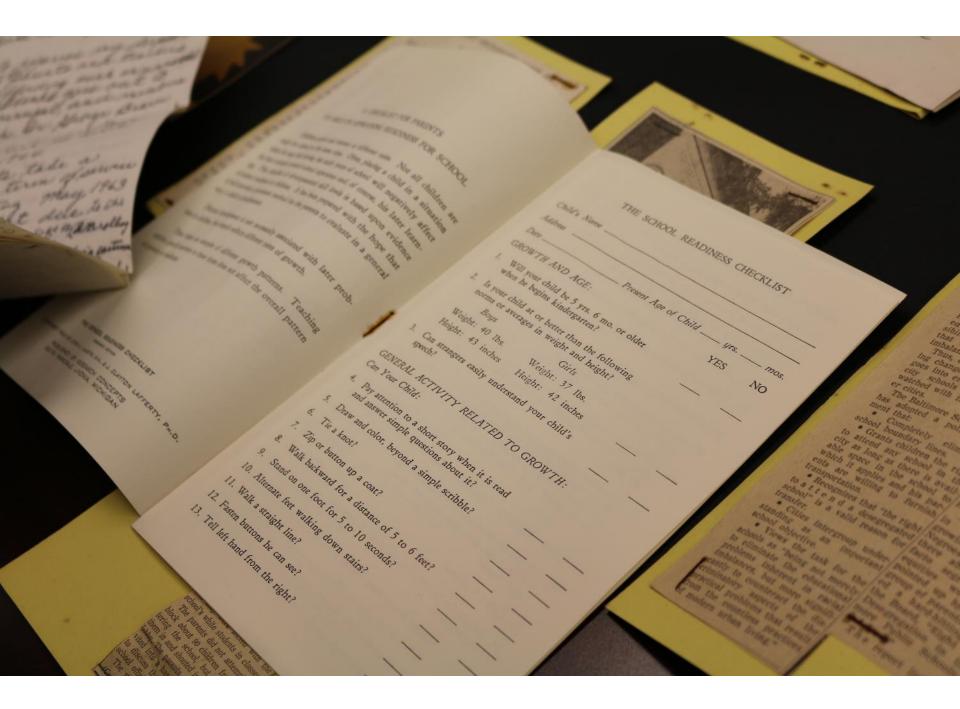


SCENE OF PROTEST - Policeman shepherd group of Negro pupils to forme and all-white School No. 236 at Old Harford Rd. and Christopher Ave. White parents, many of whom objected to the integration move, line approach to school.

-News-Post Staff Photo.

A LARGE Worthingto

ture with





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NEXT STEPS:

- 1. Present findings to Berea Neighborhood Community Association (complete 5/24)
- 2. Form Fort Worthington alumni focus group (those who attended during and shortly after the time of construction)
- 3. Capture stories from Fort Worthington alumni focus group
- 4. Present findings to current Fort Worthington students
- 5. Engage former and current Fort Worthington students (together)
- 6. Secure collection

THANK YOU!