

C'ville Told 'Get Tough' On Jr. High 'Flushing'

By MARIE McGEE
A group of angry Clarenceville parents have petitioned the board of education to take immediate steps to end a dangerous "hazing" prank involving seventh and eighth graders. "Get tough...or we'll be forced to seek legal counsel," said Mrs. Salvatore Tabacco, 19475 Antago, Livonia, in confronting the board with data concerning "flushing" incidents in the district's only junior high school.

Flushing, she described, is the dunking of a student head first in the toilet.

"Sometimes the water is clean, sometimes it isn't," she reported to the board at its Oct. 14 meeting.

SHE SAID the prank has been going on in the district

C'ville Joins Bussing Fight

Clarenceville Board of Education has officially gone on record as opposing the bussing of children out of the district to achieve racial balance in the schools.

The board unanimously adopted a resolution sponsored by trustee Norman Hunt at its Oct. 14 meeting.

The board also approved the request of Supt. David McDowell that the district join with the other 85 districts that comprise Region 9 in hiring legal counsel to keep them apprised of the latest developments involving the second round hearings in the federal courtroom of Judge Stephen Roth.

for the last 10 years. It usually takes place in the first several days of school. After that, it tapers off, she said, "but who's to say it won't start up again?"

She said she sought board help because she was dissatisfied with action taken by Arthur Mann, junior high principal, which included the dismissal from school of the culprit in a "flushing" incident involving her son.

She criticized a letter Mann issued, to junior high school parents after the incident, written at Mrs. Tabacco's request.

The irate mother told the board she felt the letter "wasn't strong enough." For instance, she continued, the letter didn't explain what "flushing" was.

She then read a longer, more detailed letter she wrote to the board pointing out the obvious dangers involved. She also read a supportive letter from the Wayne County Health Department.

MRS. TABACCO asked the board to invoke stronger disciplinary measures toward students caught in the act of "flushing" other students.

The present three-day suspension "is like giving a kid a holiday," she charged. A two-week suspension should be considered, she said.

"Or give them jobs to do around the school — like cleaning up the bathrooms," she suggested as an alternative.

She urged the appointment of a committee of parents and school officials to study the situation and bring back some recommendations to the board.

"WE'RE AS horrified and angry as you are," commented Dr. Martin Wechsler, board president. "But this is like trying to stop crime or drugs. We don't have a magic wand we can wave to make it all disappear."

He urged Mrs. Tabacco to meet with Mann and arrange for some meetings with parents and then report back to the board.

Board members indicated they were satisfied that Mann had followed school policy in handling the incidents.

Mann reported that 14 boys were actually "flushed" and several others intimidated. A few girls have been victims also, she said. An incident occurred within the first 1 1/2 days of school.

He said he held an assembly of seventh and eighth grade boys at which time "he laid down the law." The letter to the parents followed. Since then, he stated, the incidents have fallen off.

Students found guilty are suspended from school three days and a conference with parents is necessary for re-admittance. In some cases where there are several behavioral problems involved, the student is referred to a counselor, Mann explained.

Mrs. Tabacco said she had collected the names of several hundred parents who want this "disgusting phase of initiation" to end.

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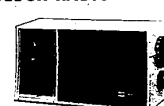
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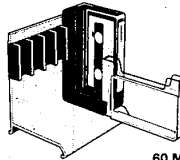
Boy Scout Troop 279 of Clarenceville's Botsford Elementary School will sponsor a pancake supper on Sunday, Nov. 14, from 8 a.m. until 12 noon at the Odell Hall, 20911 Inkster, Farmington.

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