

Smaller Clusters

Roth Panel Revises Routes

An Observer Roundup

An increase from 15 to 16 "clusters" or groups recommended by Judge Stephen J. Roth's desegregation panel on busing will affect Observer area school districts by rearranging cluster members, and will reduce the percentage of black students and the population of each cluster.

Judge Roth appointed his 11-member panel to advise him on the original metropolitan desegregation plan submitted by the NAACP.

The panel said the changes will improve the socioeconomic status (level of family income) within the clusters, and aid in scheduling buses.

THE 33 SCHOOLS districts involved will still be grouped so that at least one Detroit attendance area will be grouped with feeder schools from suburban areas.

Originally the plan called for Observerland districts to be grouped in seven clusters. However, area districts are now grouped into five clusters. On the basis of cluster membership, ease in busing would seem to be improved under the new plan.

Southfield School District, which was formerly in a cluster with Berkley, Ferndale and Detroit Central, now will be bused with Birmingham and Oak Park to Detroit Central.

Farmington and Clarenceville School districts, which were once in a cluster to be bused to Cooley and Redford in Detroit, are now grouped with West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Hills. Ford and Mumford are the Detroit attendance areas they will exchange with.

Although Livonia was in a cluster with South Redford (SR) and matched with Cody and Mackenzie attendance areas, Livonia under the new plan will be the only suburban district bused to Detroit in the Cooley and Redford areas.

SR STUDENTS will still be bused to Cody and Mackenzie areas; however, Redford Union (RU) and Garden City districts are now included in the cluster. Formerly, RU students were paired with Detroit's Ford and Mumford areas, while Garden City was linked with the Northwestern area.

Detroit Chadsey, one-fifth of Cooley and Cadillac Junior High were originally outlined as due for an exchange with the Wayne-Westland School District. Now Wayne-Westland's attendance area is limited to Chadsey for Wayne-Westland.

These changes are expected to bring a racial balance of 25 per cent black to 75 per cent white to the desegregation plan. In the NAACP plan, percentages of blacks in each cluster ranged from 22 per cent for Wayne-Westland to 38.8 per cent for Southfield.

Now the Wayne-Westland District will have 22 per cent blacks, the lowest in the Observer area and the highest percentage of blacks will be in the Garden City, SR and RU cluster with 27.8 per cent.

Racial percentages of blacks in other districts are: Southfield, 25.3, Farmington and Clarenceville, 26 and Livonia, 22.6.

TOTAL POPULATIONS for each cluster have also been reduced under the revised plan. Total populations, formerly ranged from more than 43,000 to more than 83,000 students. They would be reduced to a low of more than 38,000 in the Wayne-Westland cluster, and to a high of more than 41,000 in the Garden City, SR and RU clusters.

Total populations in other clusters will be: Southfield, more than 52,000; Farmington and Clarenceville, more than 57,000; and Livonia, nearly 73,000.



Carne's Name Is Added By Firm

The name of Fred H. Carne has been added to a Livonia architectural firm, which is now known as Ralls - Hamill - Becker - Carne, Inc.

Carne, who joined the firm in September 1969 as a principal member and production manager, has been elected vice president of the firm.

Carne is chairman of the Livonia Commission on Children and Youth, a member of the Mayor's Committee on Police - Community Relations and a member of the Summer '72 Committee.

Besides continuing its specialization in the municipal and educational field, the firm will expand service in three other areas - construction management, specialized housing and hospital planning.



FRED H. CARNE



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