

*Spillet Central Constituent*  
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# Weekly Sessions Now Set On City School Problems

By BOB ROHRER

Delegates from low-income Atlanta communities met Monday night with the city board of education and decided to institute weekly meetings with the board to discuss problems in city schools.

The delegates, members of the education subcommittee of the Citizens Central Advisory Council, presented 13 recommendations for improvement of operations of the city schools to board members.

The meeting almost ended abruptly in its early stages when disagreement rose on whether the board's responses to Economic Opportunity Atlanta—the recommendations should be submitted to the related subcommittee in writing.

When board President Bill Wainwright and Atlanta school Supt. John Letson proposed they give verbal answers to the recommendations immediately, Mrs. Maggie Moody, chairman



Bill Wainwright      John Letson

of the subcommittee, asked whether it would be possible to get the response in writing.

Wainwright said he didn't think "some answers on a piece of paper" would explain very much, and that Mrs. Moody or another representative should write the answers down if they wanted them on paper.

Mrs. Dorothy Bolden of Perry Homes said that if disadvantaged people are to be educated they must have answers "put down in black and white."

"We brought this to you in

black and white," said Mrs. Bolden, referring to the recommendations. "I think we're asking this in good faith."

After Mrs. Moody again requested something in writing "to relate back" to the disadvantaged communities involved, Wainwright said, "Well, O.K. Thank you for coming."

There was a brief, uncomfortable silence, then board member Horace Tate saved the audience from coming to an end by asking the subcommittee members: "Now wait a minute, you're not saying you don't want a discussion?"

### TAKES TIME

Wainwright then said formulation of written answers would require considerable research and time, and suggested that after answers had been written down, the board and the subcommittee could "get around the table and discuss" problems.

Mrs. Bolden said she felt "we ought to have the answers to one or two questions" to take home to their constituents. "All right, pick 'em out."

Letson suggested the ultimately approved plan of meeting one night a week at two-hour sessions "for however long it takes" to discuss school system functions and problems one by one. The subcommittee members agreed to start the series of meetings at 7 p.m. Wednesday with discussion of the new school lunch program to be instituted this fall, among other matters.

### NOTHING TO HIDE

"We have nothing to hide in the school system," Letson said. "The facts will be at your disposal. If there is a better way to do anything in this school system, we're looking for it."

He urged the members of the EOA-related committee not to "jump to conclusions," and to "take the time" to learn about operations of the system.

At the outset of the meeting, Wainwright had objected to previous declarations by subcommittee members that the board was not communicating with its constituents, and cited several letters from EOA officials thanking the Board of Education for keeping channels