

Education Board, Panel Swap Views

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It was a long, painful process, but the Atlanta Board of Education and the education subcommittee of the Citizens Advisory Council of Economic Opportunity Atlanta have begun to "communicate."

The citizens subcommittee, which has been critical of the board for failure to communicate, began a series of meetings with the board Wednesday night to discuss 12 educational recommendations being proposed by the subcommittee.

The first meeting, dealing with the problems of free and partial pay lunches for children of disadvantaged homes, at first appeared to be stalled.

DESPITE the subcommittee's claim that it wants to work with the board to improve education in Atlanta, it was obvious some of the members were there to "tell the board off."

Nevertheless, two positive developments came out of the meeting.

First, the subcommittee asked and received permission to distribute applications for free and partial pay lunches door to door in most parts of the city.

The blanks are currently being sent home by children, and as a result many never reach the parents or simply aren't understood by the parents when they do arrive.

Subcommittee members agreed to take on some responsibility for explaining the valuable forms to the parents and

if necessary helping them fill them out.

"WITH THE extremely disadvantaged you literally have to take them by the hand and lead them to a form like this and help them fill it out and return it for them because all of the spontaniety is gone," board

member Dr. Asa Yancey told the board.

Secondly, the subcommittee members were told by school lunch personnel that they need local support from citizens to help get a bill passed to provide for state participation in the school lunch program.

"You people could help us in

getting some state money for lunches," said Area II coordinator Mrs. Rose Thompson. "We can't do anymore."

Mrs. Thompson pointed out that Atlanta has 77 per cent participation in the school lunch program whereas the national average is 38 per cent.