



Times Tribune Staff Photo
Luther Seabrook...no hard feelings

Seabrook quietly departs

By John Raess
Times Tribune Staff

EAST PALO ALTO — Superintendent Luther Seabrook of the Ravenswood City Elementary School District quietly picked up and left Monday, four months before his contract was to expire.

Trustees accepted a letter of resignation from Seabrook, apparently after meeting his terms for severance pay.

The decision came over the weekend, he said.

Seabrook's departure had none of the controversy which marked the trustees' decision last September not to renew his contract.

At that time, there was suspicion a personal grudge was behind two of the three votes cast at the meeting not to rehire him.

The decision not to renew Seabrook's contract was made last September by a split vote at a hastily organized Sunday morning meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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The question was also raised as to Hatton's residency in the district. She apparently took a permanent job early in September with a Georgia university and had lived and worked in Atlanta for several weeks before the decision.

According to that decision, Seabrook was to remain with the district until his contract expired in June.

The vote was 3-1, with trustee Kendall Simmons in opposition and trustee Nathaniel Brooks abstaining.

Trustee Pamella Haggans' reportedly held a grudge against Seabrook for demoting her husband from a vice principal's job in the district, for which he did not hold the proper credentials.

On departing, Seabrook had no harsh words for district officials.

"I wish them the best. This district is important. It could be a vibrant, viable educational district if they just get somebody they have confidence in," he said.

A former community superintendent in a New York City school district, Seabrook said he was seeking a position in a large district either on the West Coast or in the East.

He was one of three finalists for the job of superintendent of the 25,000-student school district in Hartford, Conn., in late 1978.

The Ravenswood City School District of East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park has about 3,200 students.

Acting Superintendent Bill Rybensky distributed a brief statement at the administrative offices outlining the district's progress during Seabrook's tenure, including a sharp rise in student performance on statewide achievement tests.

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