

Ravenswood trustee's vote to oust Seabrook may be ruled invalid

By John Raess
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REDWOOD CITY — The coalition of Ravenswood City Elementary School District trustees that ousted Supt. Luther Seabrook may find itself one vote short of making the decision stick.

Trustee Barbara Hatton's vote may be ruled invalid, killing the decision not to renew Seabrook's contract.

It was had been reported by the Times Tribune, and erroneously attributed to Michael Vinson of the San Mateo County District Attorney's office, that the ouster would stand even if her vote was negated, because Ms. Hatton lives outside the district.

However, Vinson said Wednesday that if it is shown that Ms. Hatton does not now "physically inhabit" the Ravenswood City

School District, the decision will indeed be invalid.

By a 3-to-1 vote at a Sunday afternoon meeting, the trustees opted not to renew Seabrook's contract. Trustee Kendall Simmons voted against the motion and Trustee Nathaniel Brooks was absent.

Such a motion always requires a majority, at least three, of the trustees on the board, according to San

Mateo County District Attorney Keith Sorenson.

If Ms. Hatton's vote is ruled invalid, it would leave only Board President Mel Harris and Trustee Pamellah Haggans voting to oust Seabrook.

Ms. Hatton has accepted an administrative position at Atlanta University. According to one of the office workers in the School of Education at the university, Ms.

Hatton has been working there a few weeks.

Sources in the district said Ms. Hatton had said her daughter had been enrolled in an Atlanta school since Sept. 5. In a phone interview from Atlanta, Ms. Hatton said she still maintained a residence in East Palo Alto.

She said her job in Atlanta is not permanent at the present time but acknowledged that it will be a per-

manent position.

An office worker in the School of Education at Stanford, where Ms. Hatton previously worked, said Ms. Hatton had been gone for at least a month.

The phone at her East Palo Alto home also had been disconnected as of last week.

Sorenson said the residency of a trustee is a "difficult question to determine."