

Ravenswood hires Hayman for top spot

By Phyllis Brown
Times Tribune staff

Warren Hayman, a former superintendent of the Ravenswood City School District, was rehired Thursday night to head the troubled district by its Board of Trustees.

Hayman, a district superintendent and principal in the early 1970s, will begin the first year of a four-year contract July 1 at \$65,000 a year.

The decision to hire Hayman, the only candidate for the position, was made on a 4-1 vote, with trustee R.B. Jones dissenting.

Jones has decried the hiring of Hayman without pursuing other candidates. He was the only board member to comment on the decision.

"I would like to say to the staff and to my supporters that I am a part of the board and that I respect the appointment and urge that the district support Dr. Hayman," Jones said.

"This has been a very stressful situation for me. If I have at any point offended any of you (board members) I am sorry. I only wanted to do what is best for the district," he said.

Board President Mavis Knox said she shared Jones' hope for the future and welcomed Hayman back to the community. Hayman sat in the audience.

The board has been considering Hayman for the position came

since January, when the board agreed to allow trustee Brad Davis to ask Hayman to apply for the position.

From 1982 until his resignation Jan. 14, Hayman was vice president for student affairs at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md.

He said he resigned the position to allow the university's new president to "pick his own team" of administrators. Hayman said he will make more money at Ravenswood, though he declined to say how much more.

Hayman was dean of the school of education at Coppin State College in Baltimore from 1978 to 1982.

Hayman said he sought his old job because he is committed to solving the problems that have plagued Ravenswood and given its students some of the lowest achievement scores in the state.

"I feel a sense of commitment to do something that we started to do a long time ago — to make Ravenswood a quality educational institution," Hayman said.

The task will be challenging and will take several years to complete, an indication Hayman plans to stick with the job beyond his four-year contract.

"It will take five or six years to turn Ravenswood around," Hayman said.

The effort will include developing new programs, strengthening

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old ones, boosting employee morale and making changes in administration staffing, he said.

"I feel I should have the flexibility to create my own team," Hayman said.

The Ravenswood district has four schools in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. The vast majority of students are black or Hispanic.

Hayman will be the seventh per-

son to serve in the district's top post in the past five years. The district has not had a permanent superintendent since August 1983, when Emmell Beech resigned.

On Dec. 27, 1984, the board accepted the resignation of acting Superintendent William Rybensky and appointed associate Superintendent Othene Thomas in his place. Thomas has governed the district since then.

Hayman said he will need community support to reverse Ravenswood's problems, something he thinks he will have in time.