

DAVIS, Samuel

THE PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE, Friday, August 8, 1980-

# Ravenswood School District picks a new superintendent

By Sharman Stein  
Times Tribune staff

EAST PALO ALTO — A 51 year-old district superintendent from Detroit has been unanimously chosen as the new superintendent of the Ravenswood Elementary School District.

Acting on a motion by board chairman Mel Harris, trustees voted to "enter into negotiations immediately with Dr. Samuel Davis." No further information about Davis was disclosed.

Currently the assistant superintendent of a Detroit school region with 36,000 students in grades kindergarten through 12, Davis has 24 years of teaching and administrative experience.

Contacted this morning at his Michigan home, Davis said he was "absolutely" pleased with the board's decision. He had not been informed by the trustees that the formal vote had been taken making him the district's choice.

Davis' appointment ends a na-

tionwide search for a new district head which began when the former superintendent, Luther Seabrook, left the district last February after his contract was not renewed.

"I definitely intend to take the position, said Davis. "I'm not only looking for a job — I'm looking for a home. I've got a good job, but I've wanted to move to California for a long time. I've got a lot of family there."

Davis has been an elementary and junior high teacher, an assistant principal for a Middle School, an evaluator and research assistant for federal Title I funds. He assumed the assistant superintendent slot three and a half years ago.

"With strong educational leadership, and a precise organizational structure," Davis said he believed he could help the Ravenswood District surmount some of its difficulties.

"I'm coming from a large, sophisticated city district," he said. "Many of the problems they're having (Ravenswood) — we've already worked through."

Davis said his "maturity" and experience would be a great benefit. "Nothing will surprise me," he said confidently. "I'm prepared to deal with their problems -- they couldn't be that different than the problems we've had here."

Davis said the trustees had told him they wanted a superintendent who would "run the district". As far as politics are concerned, he said "If a superintendent does his job effectively, the board doesn't get involved. They do the politicking while you do the educating."

The father of seven children, four of whom still live at home, Davis said he planned to move to California before the school year begins.

Trustee Cecil Reeves, one of the board members who visited Davis' home district, said he was "an outstanding candidate."

"I personally voted for him, and the board was unanimous", said Reeves. Trustee Nathaniel Brooks said he was "very impressed with Davis' background" and suggested, "he has the ability to turn the district around."