

Ravenswood

Furor Over New School Chief

John Cleveland, the black educator who was chosen as the superintendent of the Ravenswood City Elementary School District in San Mateo county Wednesday night, said yesterday he expects to survive the community turmoil over his appointment.

Cleveland was selected for the \$30,000 - a - year job by a 4-to-1 vote of the district trustees at an angry public meeting marked by obscene catcalling, racial accusations and hurled placards.

Many of the some 300 persons at the meeting in the Garden Oaks Junior High School were bitterly vocal in demanding the appointment of acting Superintendent Warren C. Hayman, also black, to the job.

DIRECTOR

Cleveland, urban education director at San Diego State University, told The Chronicle he expects to ride out the controversy splitting the district — whose student body is 80 per cent black.

"I am hopeful that my education programs for the children will be successful and then, I think, the politics will work itself out," he

said.

Complicating the issue is the trustee election next Tuesday for the Ravenswood district, embracing all of the minority community of East Palo Alto and a portion of Menlo Park in southern San Mateo county.

None of the three white incumbents on the five-member board — all of whom voted for the appointment of Cleveland — is seeking re-election.

FACTION

The pro-Hayman faction, including board president Robert Hoover, who is black, supports a slate of black candidates composed of Mavis Knox, the Rev. James A. Daniels and Barbara R. Hatton. The other announced candidates for the three vacancies are Charles Dunbar, Betty Acana and Susan Smith, all white.

Hoover said the decision to hire Cleveland by the white majority of the present board was racially inspired and an effort to maintain white supremacy of the educational process. A black member of the board, Syrtiller Kabat, voted with the majority for Cleveland.

The Wednesday night meeting, drawn out by two hours of angry debates and shouted epithets, exploded when the board announced the acceptance of the contract with Cleveland.

Partisans of Hayman threw signs at the trustees and a small number of them climbed to the podium as if to threaten physical violence. The meeting was adjourned with a lengthy agenda untouched.