

Seabrook is weary of top jobs

By John Raess
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MOUNTAIN VIEW — Outgoing Ravenswood City School District Superintendent Luther Seabrook told 100 well-wishers Friday he will never seek another superintendency again.

"There was a piece of the job I couldn't cut," he said. Earlier this week Seabrook remarked he was not the "politician" a superintendent had to be.

He has been superintendent of the district for two years. Trustees voted last September not to renew his contract in April.

The vote was one of a string of controversial decisions that has led to an ongoing San Mateo County Grand Jury investigation.

"If I ever go back into administration," he said, "I will go in at the Rybensky level." William Rybensky is the assistant superintendent in the district who has been named acting superintendent.

In introductory remarks, Rybensky remarked wryly that his temporary elevation to the post shows "we have affirmative action" in the predominantly black Ravenswood district.

Seabrook resigned effective Monday, leaving the district four months before his contract was to expire.

Board President Mel Harris, Trustee Pamellah Haggans, and recently elected Trustee Cecil Reeves also attended the lunch.

Haggans and Harris voted to oust the superintendent last September.



Times Tribune Photo by Ken Yimm

Luther Seabrook, resigning as superintendent of the Ravenswood School District, chats with assistant superintendent William Rybensky.

None of the three was among the several speakers who trooped to the microphone on the split level dance floor to praise the former superintendent.

But former trustee Kendall Simmons presented Seabrook with a plaque.

Simmons, something of a maver-

ick on the board, was one of Seabrook's strongest supporters and cast the lone vote against the ouster.

In a parting letter to the board when his term expired in November, Simmons called the trio of trustees who voted Seabrook out "underhanded snakes."

Seabrook urged district officials to "forget the Mickey Mouse things that happened.

"Work like hell to keep Ravenswood a vibrant, functioning district," he said.

In a veiled reference to the grand jury investigation of the trustees' decisions, he said blacks in this

country "don't have the right to be wrong. We only have the right to be right."

Seabrook announced earlier this week he was seeking positions on both coasts.

He formerly was a community superintendent in a New York City school district.

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