

Document:**3A) Hempstead Proposes a School District Consolidation Plan****Hempstead Asks Schools Mergers, *New York Times, August 24, 1963***

Hempstead, L.I., Aug. 23--The Hempstead School Board has unanimously proposed that its school district be merged with those of Garden City and part of Uniondale to end racial imbalances here. The plan also called for the closing of one of its six elementary schools because it is 89 percent Negro.

The board added that it did not seem consistent to expect Hempstead residents "to struggle alone with the insoluble local problems within a racially imbalanced school district while the larger over-all issue can be approached through elimination of arbitrary district boundary lines separating our schools from those enrolling virtually all white pupils."

Neither the Garden City nor the Union School Districts, which are contiguous with Hempstead, have problems of racial imbalance. A spokesman for the Garden City School Board refused to comment. A Uniondale spokesman said the proposed merger would be opposed.

Racial Imbalance Problem - Editorial, *Hempstead Beacon, July 24, 1963*

State Education Commissioner James E. Allen's recent directive on correcting racial imbalance in our schools appears to have raised more questions than provided answers Because of the number and location of Negro residents in both the Malverne and the Hempstead School Districts, particular attention is spotlighted on possible action to be taken by the boards of education of these two districts. It is only a matter of time before other school boards in the area will have to face similar problems. The answers are not easy.

Basically Allen's directive appears to completely upset the "neighborhood" school concept, which has been the basis for enrollment in the public schools, a principal which until now has been accepted as the best sociologically and educationally by the experts.

Uniondale School Official Doubts Merger Backing, *Hempstead Beacon, November 20, 1963*

Uniondale School Board President Alvin Howard, speaking at a meeting of the board, said that he seriously doubted that officials of the State Education Department would give serious consideration to the proposal of the Hempstead School Board to merge the Hempstead district with the Hempstead village boundaries as a means of relieving racial imbalance in Hempstead schools.

Howard said that after talks with Crewson and State Education Commissioner James E. Allen during the Syracuse convention that he didn't feel the proposal was getting much support. He indicated that it could be "political suicide" for state legislatures to support the legislation that would be necessary to put the proposal into effect.

The Taxpayers and Parents of Uniondale, that had asked the Uniondale School Board to take a stand on the Hempstead proposal, presented petitions with more than 3,600 asking for the preservation of neighborhood schools in Uniondale.

Questions:

- 1- Why does the Hempstead School Board want to merge with Garden City and Uniondale?
- 2- Why does the article say that Garden City and Uniondale have no "racial imbalance" problem?
- 3- How does the *Hempstead Beacon* editorial view proposals by the State Education Commissioner?
- 4- Why does the Uniondale School Board President doubt that the state will give "serious consideration" to the Hempstead School Board proposal?
- 5- In your opinion, if this plan had been implemented in 1963, how would Long Island be different today?