

Metro police counselor's fate postponed

Special to Sentinel-Voice

A hearing to determine whether a civilian police counselor will be fired has been postponed until later this week.

Metro Youth Diversion Specialist Dave Wallace said Wednesday's "nonconfirmation" hearing to determine his

fate was postponed because his lawyer was late. He said he thinks the hearing might take place Friday. He said he's prepared to fight for his job in court.

A four-year Metro employee, Wallace, 32, also co-hosts Police Officers

Promoting Unity, a weekly talk show on KCEP 88.1-FM.

Wallace has been on administrative leave with pay since a June 6 incident at his 214 Seventh St., entertainment firm.

Wallace charged that Sgt. Paul Osborne and two officers, responding to a burglary tip, harassed him and a teenage music group while they were practicing in the building.

During a meeting several weeks later, Wallace said Capt. Frank Barker grabbed and pushed him forcefully after he declined to return a copy of a report absolving the officers. Wallace said he has been getting cortisone shots to treat the shoulder he says Barker injured.

An internal police probe exonerated Barker and charged Wallace with insubordination. A "nonconfirmation" meeting was then set to determine Wallace's fate, according to a Metro report. Wallace said Metro failed to interview eyewitnesses who backed up his story. Metro investigators disagreed.



WALLACE

Activist, school officials apart on magnet

They disagree over the concept's merits, aims

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

A parent who championed West Las Vegas' first middle school is at odds with Clark County School District officials over how an eighth-grade magnet component slated for next year will affect the school.

Marzette Lewis, who heads the community group Westside Action Alliance Korp-Uplifting People (WAAK-UP), said the magnet school component approved for Charles I. West Middle School is a slap in the face to West Las Vegas



Upgrades continue inside a bathroom.

parents whose children, she says, continue to be degraded and dehumanized by being bused to schools outside their community and having to attend class in a half-built school.

Construction is ongoing at the 2050 Sapphire Stone St. school.

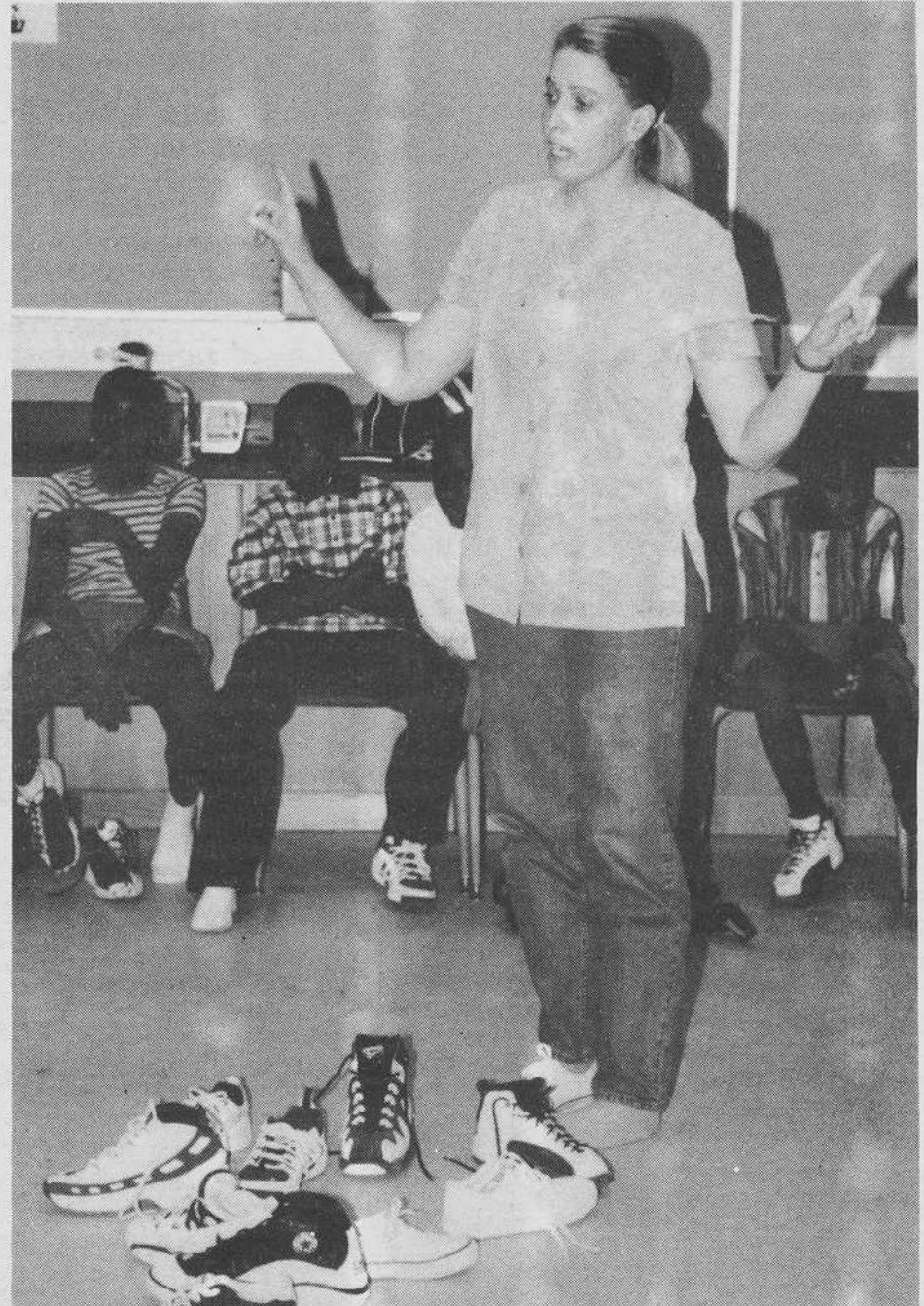
Lewis said the creating the grade-specific magnet component will leave many neighborhood children out of the loop, as children from other zones file in. She said she learned about the plan last month during a school board meeting.

"A tremendous amount of energy was put into getting a middle school here (in West Las Vegas)," she said. "This is a slap in the face to that effort."

Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Leonard Paul disagreed.

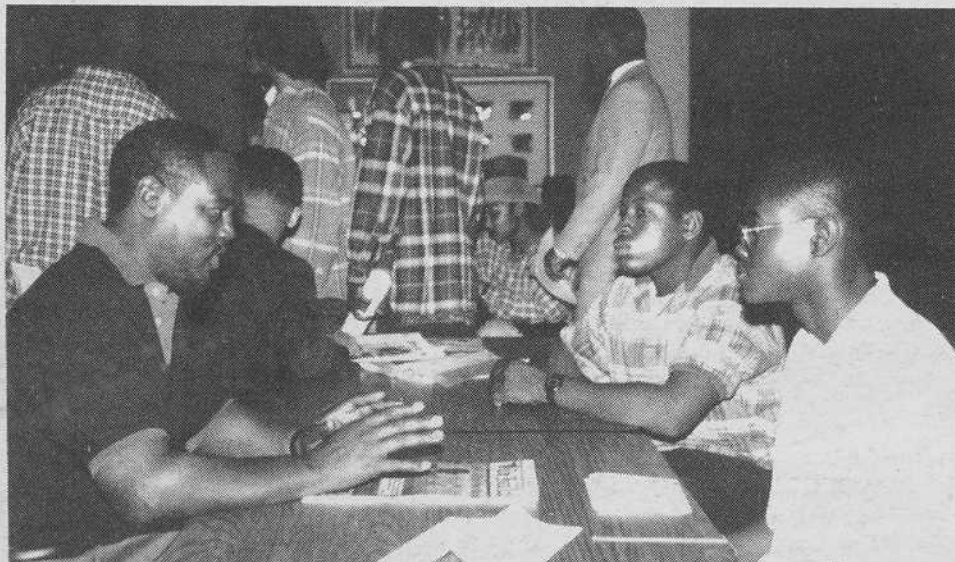
"Magnet schools benefit neighborhood children as well as those bused in," he said Wednesday.

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Sentinel-Voice photos by Ramon Savoy

A West Middle School teacher dives feet first into her curriculum last week.



Nucleus Business Plaza owner John Edmonds talks with youth at a job fair last year.

Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Black developers say City nixed them

By Damon Hodge
Sentinel-Voice

A Las Vegas councilman has denied blacks a chance to partner in the revitalization of West Las Vegas, two would-be developers allege.

Curtis Briley and John Edmonds said Las Vegas Councilman Gary Reese shut out black developers, contractors and citizens by not allowing them to bid on developing a "town center" on a 22-acre tract next to Magic Johnson's Westland Plaza, across the street from the Nucleus Business Plaza, 900 W. Owens Ave.

They contend that Reese never told them that Johnson's development option expired in November nor did he allow them a chance

to submit proposals.

In 1995, former NBA star turned businessman Earvin "Magic" Johnson developed the commercial center's first-phase. Johnson's option on the 22-acre parcel expired in November after more than a year passed without movement on second-phase development.

In February, Briley, a realtor, said a city official asked to partner with the West Las Vegas Neighborhood Executive Board in finding suitable developers for the land. Briley chairs the board's Economic Development Committee.

After months of canvassing for private sector support, Briley said Reese told him in

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