

Dr. Fleischer To Resign His Post

As Nutley Schools Superintendent Decides To Accept Union Twp. Position

By John Bunevich

The Board of Education began mapping plans last night to replace longtime superintendent of schools Dr. Robert D. Fleischer, who earlier this week announced his decision to resign from that position. Dr. Fleischer has spent 13 years in the Nutley System, with 11 of them served as schools director, the post he holds now.

Dr. Fleischer, known state-wide for his outstanding innovations in the field of special education, has accepted the job as superintendent of schools for Union Township. The Union Board of Education officially named Fleischer Tuesday

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Dr. Fleischer Robert, Nutley, N.J. város
iskoláinak főigazgatója, Néhai Fleischer-
Mária Jereuc és Kalassay Ethel gyido'sebbia,
Kalassay Sándor és Abaházy Erzsébet
unokája.) Béri Ottani közalata után
Union, N.J. iskoláinak főigazgatója lett.

night to succeed Dr. Fred Stahuber in that spot. Dr. Stahuber will retire about October 1, thus giving the Nutley School Board the dilemma of finding a replacement or adequate temporary set-up for superintendent by that date.

Mrs. Thomas Jaworek, Nutley Board president, summed up the feelings of that entire Body when she said she was "terribly shocked and surprised" upon learning of Dr. Fleischer's decision. Indications from the private caucus meeting last night pointed to a long and tedious process in finding a suitable successor for the superintendent. Dr. Fleischer on Monday notified all School Board members, each with a phone call, of his plan to leave Nutley.

According to Mrs. Jaworek, all that was discussed at the Board meeting last night was "what plan of action we would take to help us secure someone else."

"He's made a fine contribution to education in Nutley and provided excellent leadership," remarked Mrs. Jaworek. "I couldn't have been more surprised to learn of his decision."

All other Board members too displayed dismay at learning of Fleischer's move, and each of the School trustees expressed the same surprise as Mrs. Jaworek.

A member of the executive committee of the New Jersey School Development Council, he is also immediate past chairman of the New Jersey Council for Economic Education, and a member of Governor William Cahill's Task Force on Economic Education.

In Nutley, Dr. Fleischer championed low cost-high quality education and proof of this was Nutley's distinction of having one of the lowest per pupil cost rates in the area. He also is a firm believer in paying his administration staff well, and instead of being assisted by a huge staff, Fleischer chose to hire a minimum amount of quality people and pay them well. He set up a career type salary guide here that favored the long-term teacher who had decided to make a life's work of teaching in Nutley. Fleischer designed the salary guide with a very low starting salary, which would receive a large boost after the teacher would spend a minimum of five years here.



According to Fleischer, the Senior High School, under his direction, has become a prototype of modern secondary education and the school has gone through two Middle States evaluations under his supervision.

His elementary school program mixed both the learning station and open classroom concept. During Fleischer's reign, he guided two major additions to the high school, in 1962 and '68, and he also saw the Radcliffe School addition and the crew boathouse erection, both in 1966.

However, more than any other area, Dr. Fleischer in Nutley has shone most in the area of special education. He guided the purchase of The Sons of Italy Orphanage in 1970, which is now the regional center for "trainables," severely retarded children. The program, under Fleischer, has increased tenfold, from 10 children when it first began, to almost 100 now.

In curriculum development, Fleischer innovated the procedure continually updating textbooks every three years. He also was responsible for the first work-experience course in Nutley High School. He also added the Italian language there as a course of study.

Fleischer attended Grove City College in Pennsylvania and is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh where he received a bachelor's, master's and doctor's degree. He served as a graduate assistant under the late Dr. William A. Yeager in 1951-52 at the University of Pittsburgh. In fact, Fleischer was raised in Pittsburgh.

His background in education includes teaching positions in Rockwood and Edgewood, Pa. He also served in the 1950's as principal of Carnegie High School and Greensburg High School, both in Pennsylvania. In 1960 he came to Nutley as principal of the Senior High School and served in that post to 1962, when he was named superintendent.

He has contributed articles to "The Social Studies," "The Review of Educational Research," "The Journal of Educational Research" and the "U.S. News and World Report." His most recent publication is "Symposium on Collective Negotiations in Education." The book published by the Council for Administrative Leadership was written by Fleischer and others.

During World War II his unit received a presidential citation and Fleischer received five battle stars while serving 29 months overseas in the European Theater of Operation.

Born in Pittsburgh, he is married to the former Gertrude E. Enright. The couple has three sons: one was graduated from Drew University; one was graduated from Marietta College and one is currently a student at the University of Detroit.

A member of the Nutley Rotary Club, he is past moderator and chairman of the Church Council of St. Paul's Congregational Church. He serves as treasurer of the Nutley Library and is listed in "Who's Who in the East."

Dr. Fleischer, in fact, did not notify the Board that he was actively seeking the spot in Union Township. He said it was his professional right to seek employment elsewhere without asking the School Board's approval.

"I have gone on other interviews over the years and on several occasions other school districts asked if I was available. I turned them all down though," added Fleischer.

"I've been approached several times but I never seriously considered leaving Nutley," he said.

According to Fleischer, after carefully weighing the Union Township offer he thought it in his "best personal and professional interests" to accept the Union job.

"I believe I have the respect of both the Board and the community and I want to leave here on those terms," the superintendent remarked.

Fleischer said he would "rather not further elaborate" upon exactly what

events or events led him to his final decision.

Union Township is 13 square miles in size, about three to four times the size of Nutley. The residential-industrial area has a school enrollment of about 9,000, as compared to Nutley's 6,000 students.

The Union System, the same as Nutley, experienced a slight decrease in enrollment last year but there is still much room for growth," remarked Fleischer.

Union Township is located about 10 miles south of Nutley in Union County. It too has a nine-member elected Board of Education.



Requirements for a superintendent include state certification after completion of a six-year program in the proper course of studies which leads to a master's degree plus 30 credits beyond. Another requirement is the completion of three years actual experience as a school administrator. According to Fleischer, there are adequate replacements for him within the Nutley System, however he added that he would not actively assist with the choice of a successor unless he was specifically asked. To date, the Nutley School Board has not indicated whether or not it would stay within the System for a replacement.

Dr. Fleischer's list of professional credentials are both long and impressive. President of the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, he is also currently an adjunct professor at Rutgers University.

He is presently enrolled in many professional organizations, including life membership in the New Jersey Education Association, the Phi Delta Kappa, the AASA, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, the New Jersey Association of School Administrators, the New Jersey School Development Council, and the New Jersey Council for Economic Education.

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LEAVING? Well, not yet. However, as of October 1 Nutley superintendent of schools Robert Fleischer will vacate his

position here to head the Union Township School System. Fleischer cited 'personal and professional reasons' for the decision.

