

Jefferson School Needs Are Studied in Arlington

By Gail Bensinger
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Arlington School Board last night formed a citizens' committee to study the need for new facilities for Thomas Jefferson Junior High School and named as its vice chairman one of the plaintiffs in an unsuccessful suit to block the school's desegregation.

The new Citizens Action Committee for the Jefferson Area will consider whether the school needs a new plant or additions to the existing structure.

The school was combined with the formerly all-Negro Hoffman-Boston Junior High School last fall amid legal controversy over the desegregation plan, which was upheld last February by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The school now occupies both buildings.

Named as vice chairman of the committee was Melvin L. Crane, P-TA chairman at Patrick Henry Elementary School and one of the parents who brought suit against the School Board to reverse the integration move. Ernest E. Saulmon, chairman of Thomas Jef-

erson's P-TA, was picked to head the study group.

The new group will comprise representatives of the P-TAs of Thomas Jefferson and the ten elementary schools which feed into it, and three Arlington civic organizations. The Board set a deadline of Jan. 1 for a preliminary report, and Feb. 15 for final recommendations.

The Board also received a report from the school administration's department of research on the amount of busing in the County. The report showed that for the last ten school years about 40 per cent of the students have been bused.

For the present year, the figure is 39.8 per cent, although kindergarten students are being transported to school for the first time. The percentage of Negro students being bused is down to 29.2 per cent, compared with 38.5 per cent ten years ago.

In other school-related matters, Arlington County Board Chairman Leo Urbanske Jr. sent a telegram to Virginia Gov. Mills Godwin requesting that County residents be allowed to elect their School Board. The County previously had such a system, but lost it in 1957 when it tried to buck the State's "massive resistance" laws.