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MAR 17 1977

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Staff denies discrimination

School board seeks closer ties with migrant education

By MARGARET SPANG
School District 15 teachers and administrators cannot wait to be invited to meetings of Mexican-American parents who are serving as an advisory commission (PAC) to the Title I-M Migrant Program administered by Washington County Intermediate Education District. Instead, they must show up at the meetings and prove that they are truly interested in seeing that their brown-skinned pupils receive equal opportunities for education in the dis-

trict's schools.
This was the advice of Hector Hinojosa, bi-lingual vocational counselor at Forest Grove High School, to a meeting of District 15 School Board and administrators Monday night. The meeting was held as an executive session to protect the confidentiality of pupils' names which were discussed in the light of recent charges of discrimination filed by Concilio de Padres, a Mexican-American group of parents.
The charges, spelled out in letters

which have been sent to the Oregon Department of Education, the Washington County IED, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Migrant Education and U.S. Rep. Les AuCoin, concerned disciplinary actions at Neil Armstrong Junior High School. Principals Marvin Mellbye and Larry McMacken discussed each situation and how it was handled. They then asked Jose Garcia, bi-lingual home-school counselor for the junior high school, if he felt there had been discrimination,

and he said he had seen no evidence of this.
Hinojosa told the board that the Concilio de Padres, which is bringing the charges of discrimination, has as its membership almost the same group of parents serving as advisors to the Title I-M program and that the same parents are involved in Centro Cultural's Parent Education classes which are held weekly at the Cornelius headquarters. He described the confusion he has experienced in trying to sort out

the various meetings held by the three groups (same parents) and said he felt the blame for poor communication lay with both the Anglos and the Mexican-Americans and that both must try harder to break down suspicions and fears and to work together for the best education for all the children.
Board members indicated their willingness to take some first steps by arranging for a joint meeting with the Title I-M advisory group at which they would officially recognize its role. Supt.

D. Herbert Armstrong and Assis. Supt. Gary Lucas are working on other suggestions which they will bring to the board in an effort to defuse the discrimination charges and work for more understanding at all levels.
Assis. Supt. Lucas Tuesday explained the background of the Title I-M migrant program and recent problems District 15 has experienced in working with the IED-directed program.
Federal money for migrant education (Continued on Page 3)