

# *Magnet high schools attract few students*

By **JULIE ANNE BOOTY**

By the second week of school, only 17 suburban students were paying tuition to attend four of the Dallas school district's six magnet high schools, school officials said Friday.

Last year about a dozen out-of-district students paid \$120 a month to study at the career magnets, and trustee Brad Lapsley saw the magnets' specialized curriculum as an opportunity to lure Anglo students from the suburbs into Dallas' voluntary desegregation program.

In a split vote, the board voted in May to lower tuition to \$80 a month, and in July, school officials estimated they had room for 150 to 200 suburban students.

But with the exception of the Booker T. Washington arts magnet which has enrolled 14 out-of-district students this year, response from the suburbs has been minimal.

The health professions magnet and the new human services and law and public administration magnets each have one tuition-paying student.

Lapsley, who pushed for a reduction in out-of-district tuition against several other trustees, said Friday he was "disappointed but not too surprised" by the low participation.

"We haven't gone out and beaten the bushes to encourage, solicit and enlist students," he added. "We can't go out and start stealing sheep, but there

could be a little publicity to let people in the suburbs know it's possible to attend the magnets on a tuition basis."

Earlier, trustees Sarah Haskins, Jill Foster, Kathlyn Gilliam and Robert Price said if persons want their children to attend Dallas' magnet schools, they should buy houses inside the school district.

But two anonymous donors who disagree with those trustees have given the district's Foundation for Quality Education, Inc., a total of \$10,000 for scholarships to the arts magnet.

James Bond, president of the foundation, said he's hoping to secure similar scholarship funds for the other magnet schools.

About 12 students already admitted

to the arts magnet have applied for the full-tuition scholarships, and Bond said awards probably will be made next week.

School officials said the Dallas Chamber of Commerce sent press releases on the scholarships to suburban newspapers.