The controversial redesign program got another year of life Thursday, but the School Board reserved the right to modify or eliminate specific programs following an evaluation process.

The redesign program offers "enhancements" or special programs such as art or telecommunications to attract white students to black schools and vice versa.

The concept had the support of nine of 12 board members. Board Member Hilda Randall, who eventually voted against the extension, attempted to eliminate transportation to programs that attract 10 or fewer students. But after a half-hour of debate, she withdrew her motion.

"We're not locked in, changes can be made during the year," said board member Robert Crawford, who made a motion to continue the concept.

In the meantime, a special committee of board members plans to begin looking at each individual program, Crawford said.

"We are saying exactly the same things we were saying three years ago when I came on the board, but nothing has changed," Randall said.

Donna Deshotels echoed that complaint. Holding up a copy of a speech she gave three years ago, she said the program now costs more, attracts fewer students and "things just got worse."

The last time the board extended redesign, there were plans to make changes "and nothing at all changed," she said.

Randall, Mike Branch and Deshotels voted against the extension. All other board members voted for it.

District PTA President Janet Parrish presented a resolution in favor of keep-

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Ing redesign for another year. Ivy Beauregard, chair of the Redesign Oversight Committee, also urged the concept be kept and for board members to institute the recommendations the committee presented to the board last month.

Vera London, a parent whose child just finished a redesign program, urged the board to keep redesign going for another year. Her daughter "got the help she needed in an enhancement," she said.

London also mentioned a flyer that circulated in parts of the black community that labeled six board members as racist opponents of redesign. The flyer carried the name of the Committee for Superior Education. London said she did not know of any such group, adding, "let's not deal with people who are misinformed."

Crawford said board members thought they knew who was responsible for the flyer and that two senior staff members were also involved. He did not name names on the record.

Board member Buddy Edens asked Superintendent Bernard Weiss to investigate and discipline the two, if their participation is verified.

Edens, who has been critical of redesign, said he agreed with the concept but added that, "some things are wrong with the program and we need to fix them."

Board member Ron Johnson said it was too late to make changes. If redesign is eliminated, there will be a similar loss in public support for schools, he predicted.

The board "never made the type of commitment to guarantee success," he said, admitting there were programs that were nothing more than "empty shells."

Board member Jacqueline Mims, who chairs the evaluation committee, said that of the 13 reports that the committee has already received, only four said they had proper materials and resources and were fully funded.

The lack of support was one theme that was echoed by several board members during debate.

In other action, the board debated a rule change that Branch attempted to amend. The rule change would effectively allow a committee to halt any proposal and keep the full board from debating it, Branch said.

During the discussion, Board President Bob Meador and Branch often shot verbal barbs at one another.

Meador said that during a pre-meeting conversation he advised Branch "that at times a wise man changes his mind, where a fool never does... All you're concerned about is how much publicity you can get."

"You're a hypocrite," Branch shot back, which caused Edens to jump in with a plea to "not do this in public."

Meador later apologized for his "animosity and ugliness."

After more than 20 minutes of debate, the board sent the matter back to committee for more discussion.