School Board's decision last month to hold a tenure hearing for McKinley Principal William Breda and other issues involving discrimination in the state.

In that April School Board meeting, only the three black board members — Frank Millican, Eva Legard and Press Robinson — voted against holding a hearing. The other nine white board members voted in favor of the tenure hearing after receiving allegations about Breda from the school staff.

According to NAACP officials, after Wednesday's meeting, 17 board members voted for a boycott, and three did not vote. Two School Board members who sit on the board of directors — Legard and Millican — did not attend the meeting.

Eames would not disclose how many board members the NAACP has, how many attended the meeting or their names. Most of the NAACP board members did not discuss the issues.

NAACP attorney Robert Williams, who also is representing Breda, spoke in favor of the boycott. Breda did not attend.

"The problem is not McKinley or Mr. Breda," Williams said. "The move is led by malcontent teachers and a school board member."

Williams said there is a master plan to make McKinley a satellite school of LSU and a move to get rid of black administrators.

He also said Breda's tenure hearing would be public.

A parish grand jury is investigating allegations of sexual misconduct of a McKinley teacher. As a result of the spillover controversy, several teachers, parents and students gave board member Jim Talbot a list of grievances against the principal.

Talbot in turn prompted a school system investigation, and the board later voted to hold a tenure hearing.

Talbot and board members Sue Fowler, Robert Crawford and Robert Meador were on Eames "hit list," along with a television news reporter, the Greater Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce, and Barton Conradi, an attorney who represents two McKinley teachers in a lawsuit stemming from the original sexual misconduct case.

Williams said the Breda case was handled differently than other tenure cases.

"I've never seen a case like this," Williams said. "First, the superintendent says he doesn't have enough for a hearing. Then, a board member asks for information about Breda. Then, the superintendent says he has enough. They're attempting to fire a principal."

Eames said the bigger issue is that blacks are allowing white people to take away their achievements.

"You've got to turn the clock back," Eames said. "You can't sit around and let people take things away from you. If you can't feel how they're whippin' up on you here, then you don't feel no pain."

Several people, however, including some school system principals, said that the children should not be overlooked.

"Under this whole barrage, I haven't seen one incident of children showing any disrespect. They are achieving," said William Turner, principal of Capitol High School. "Our young kids can make the adjustment."

Still others, including Collis Temple, director of the Mayor's Council on Youth Opportunity and a Chamber of Commerce member, said everyone should sit down and discuss the issues before taking drastic action.

NAACP state President Rupert Richardson attended the meeting to report on other incidents around the state involving alleged discrimination.

"Are you isolated," she said. "The picture was clear when the board voted 9-3. The lines were drawn. We're in a war whether we want to be or not."

Richardson said she did not have objections to a boycott, but there must be commitment behind any action the local chapter takes.