

Gibson bows out of school board

By MIKE BOWLER

Larry S. Gibson, who served six of its most turbulent years, told Mayor Schaefer yesterday that he does not want to be reappointed when his term expires this month.

Mr. Gibson's surprise announcement came only four days after an influential black citizens' group had urged his reappointment. He is one of four blacks on the nine-member board.

The 32-year-old professor at the University of Maryland Law School said he wanted to "spend time on other matters and give someone else a chance to serve."

Mr. Gibson, who had managed the losing campaign of Milton B. Allen for re-election as Baltimore state's attorney, denied that he has political aspirations of his own. "I won't

seek and won't accept any political office, he said.

In an interview yesterday, Mr. Gibson proposed that a commission be named "to make a thorough analysis of the school system for the last four years—where it's been and where it's going.

"This is a good time to do it," he said. "Decentralization is almost completed, and the school board will be at least partly reconstituted."

The youngest and one of the most active of the board members, Mr. Gibson called his six-year term "one of the rewarding experiences of my life. It was a time to be on an urban school board. We were chaotic at times, but I think we listened to the public and responded to it.

"I think the question of arming the security officers came



LARRY S. GIBSON
"...rewarding experience"

around at least five times. It came in cycles, like a lot of other things."

Among his accomplishments,

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Mr. Gibson listed the appointment of Roland N. Patterson, the superintendent, the setting up of a system of parent representatives in the schools and the new regional parents' councils, a plan that Mr. Gibson helped write.

How he voted

On several controversial matters, Mr. Gibson voted against his own wishes when he felt the board was responding to community desires. "Desegregation was one of these," he said. "I didn't agree with it, and I think it's a copout, but the board was responding the way it should have."

Mr. Gibson endorsed the appointment of James M. Griffin as board president.

Besides Mr. Griffin's term, those of Maree Farring and John Walton, the board president, expire this month. Dr. Walton declined to comment on his reappointment yesterday, and Mrs. Farring, the senior board member with 14 years' experience, said she is seeking reappointment.

"I have a little job I want to finish," she said, but she would not elaborate.