

Desegregation Advisory Committee Public Meeting

December 13, 2016

Huntsville, Alabama

Meeting Expectations

- Please silence your cell phones
- Be positive and respectful of others
- Listen courteously
- Hold comments until the feedback forms are passed out, we will ask all participants to please line up at the podium
- Your input is vital and we will take as many comments as time allows
- All feedback forms (including the ones presented) will be collected

Timeline of DAC Activities since selection

- In and Out Meeting with 2015-16 DAC and 2016-17 DAC – July 18
- 2015-16 DAC meeting with Judge Haikala – August 9
- 2016-17 DAC received training from DOJ Office of Community Relations – August 20
- 2016-17 DAC meeting with Special Master Carlos Gonzalez (with members of the 2015-16 DAC) – August 23
- Suspension of DAC activities by Judge Haikala – August 30
- Mr. Gonzalez report and recommendations released – September 9
- Order amended with new guidance for the DAC by Judge Haikala – November 1

Who is serving on the DAC?

Vincent Argentina

Kimberly Flint

Preeti Francis

Isha Greene

Talya Hargrove

Chaundra Jones

Laura Lemley

Keith Poe

Ashley Sparks

Millie Steber

Oshea Beckford – Student Lee

Malik Williams – Student Jemison

15/16 DAC Accomplishments

2015-2016 DAC Accomplishments

- Developed operating procedures
- Chose “student discipline” as the area of concentration for the year
- Held monthly non-public meetings
- Conducted three system wide public meetings
- Met and advised Superintendent of HCS
- Conducted a Parent Survey about the impact of the Consent Order
- Members regularly attended PTA and HCS meetings

2015-2016 DAC Accomplishments

- Received and compiled community feedback
- Reported concerns of inequity to HCS
- Provided feedback to Superintendent about Behavioral Learning Guides
- Compiled an annual report for Superintendent and filed it with the court.

Recommendations were made on

- Mathematics Acceleration
- Extracurricular Activities
- School Discipline

Changes in the DAC

TinyURL.com/amend9

Enhancing Communications with Huntsville Community

The DAC is the representation of the community in the Consent Order. We are with you & your children. We want to hear your concerns and comments and we want to help get your questions answered. We will not be as effective as possible unless we have the trust of the community and get your feedback. We also want to be transparent, communicate clearly, and enhance trust with the whole community. To that end, we will:

Enhancing Communications with Huntsville Community

- Develop a clear mission statement
- Write easily understood descriptions for each section of the Consent Order
- Create an Independent DAC Website
- Setup a confidential DAC email address - hsvdac@gmail.com
- Operate a confidential DAC PO Box
- Operate a confidential DAC Drop box at each school

The District will not have direct access to feedback. The DAC will communicate feedback to the District and to stakeholders as appropriate and will maintain confidentiality.

Operating Procedures

Unchanged Operating Procedure Requirement:

DAC holds a non-public meeting no later than August 1st to elect a chair and review operating procedures.

Additional Provisions:

Meetings:

- A. DAC's private meetings will be confidential.
- B. Minutes will be recorded and published for the public.
- C. Non-DAC members may be invited to attend nonpublic meetings but only to perform a requested task. These non-DAC members will be required to maintain confidentiality as well.

Additional Provisions:

DAC Members:

- A. Adopt a procedure to replace a DAC member who is unable to meet the time commitment of the DAC or who cannot continue participation for any other reason.
- B. Court, DOJ and HCS will be notified when a member needs to be replaced.
- C. Court will select a replacement using the applicant ranking list provided by DOJ and HCS.

Additional Provisions:

Subcommittees:

- A. DAC will create subcommittees to help monitor all aspects of the Consent Order.

Minutes:

- A. DAC's minutes will be thorough and informative to increase awareness of DAC's work.
- B. Minutes will contain – description of topics discussed, names of individuals in attendance, and conclusions reached, if any.

Selection of DAC Members

Previous Guidelines for DAC Selection

- “The Parties (i.e. HCS and DOJ representatives) responsible for selection of members.
- Outlined basic composition of DAC including:
 - 2 parents of elementary students
 - 2 parents of middle school students
 - 2 parents of high school students
 - 2 parents of M-to-M transfer students
 - 2 parents of magnet students
 - 2 high school seniors
- Selection criterion:
 - DAC composition to reflect HCS demographics
 - Relevant qualifications
- No clearly defined application window or guidelines
- No procedure in place to replace DAC members unable or unwilling to fulfill duties
- No provision to screen for potential conflicts of interest
- No requisite for oversight from the Court, i.e. the judge, of the Parties’, i.e. HCS and DOJ representatives’, selection of DAC members
- Only two of five high-school feeder patterns represented

Section IX.B.6 Update

Designates that one high school student from each of the six high schools in HCS will be placed on the DAC.

1. Ensures that the strengths and challenges of the various school feeder patterns are addressed from a student perspective.
2. Eliminates the need to identify a student DAC member as being from a school with a black majority enrollment, as all schools will be represented.

Section IX.G.1 Clarifying Application & Rankings

1. Applications must be available **by May 15**
2. Application will specifically address **potential conflicts of interest**.
3. Both parties must have ALL applications to review.
4. Both HCS and DOJ representatives will review applications independently.
5. HCS and DOJ representatives will meet to discuss applicants.
6. Applicants will be ranked jointly by both sets of representatives.
7. Any disagreement in rankings will be clearly outlined in writing.
8. There will be **more applicants on the ranking list than openings**.

Section IX.G.2 Final Selection Process

1. The Court, i.e. the judge, will receive the ranking list from the HCS and DOJ representatives **no later than June 15**.
2. The ranking is delivered under seal to avoid any potential tampering.
3. The representatives have a **full month to review the applicants** before submitting rankings.
4. The judge will review not only the ranking list and reasons listed by HCS and DOJ representatives for the rankings, but also **any potential conflicts**.
5. **The judge will make the final selection of DAC members.**
6. The DAC members selected by the judge will become part of the official record of Hereford vs HCS BOE.

Section IX.G.3 Grandfathering & Conflict Identification

1. Current DAC composition will remain intact unless representatives for HCS and/or the DOJ identify a true conflict and the judge upholds it as a valid means for dismissal.
2. If HCS or DOJ representatives identify a member with a conflict, they will bring this to the judge in a private discussion
 - a. **In Camera** - In chambers; in private. A cause is said to be heard in camera either when the hearing is had before the judge in his private room or when all spectators are excluded from the courtroom. (Source: Black's Law Dictionary)

Meetings

Public Meetings

In addition to our two annual system wide public meetings, we will also hold at least one public meeting specifically for each of Huntsville's five districts annually.

The district meetings can be held either at a District facility or another location in the community; however, the District will not be responsible for coordinating logistics at non-District facilities for the DAC's meetings.

Meetings with the Superintendent and Board of Education

1. The DAC will meet privately with the Superintendent at the end of each semester

Our 1st semester ending meeting with Mr. Drake is scheduled for early January

2. A DAC member will brief the Board of Education on the DAC's actions and its assessments at a meeting of the Board of Education at least twice per school year.

During these meetings, the member of the DAC should comment on the DAC's recent activities and identify issues related to the implementation of the Consent Order.

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Related to DAC changes or operation

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Student Assignment

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

**Equitable Access to Course Offerings
and Programs**

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Extracurricular Activities

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Faculty

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Facilities

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

**Student Discipline, Positive School Climate,
and Effective Classroom Management**