

Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2017

Annie C. Merts Center

Call to Order: A non-public meeting of the DAC was held at the Annie C. Merts Center on Tuesday, January 25th, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chair, Keith Poe.

Members in Attendance: Members of the DAC in attendance were Vinny Argentina, Tanisha Lee, OShea Beckford, Kimberly Flint, Isha Greene, Ashley Sparks, Keith Poe, Millie Steber, Laura Lemley, Chaundra Jones, and Preeti Francis.

A quorum of the DAC was established at this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was the regular monthly meeting of the DAC. Members welcomed Tanisha Lee, new addition to the DAC. Mr. Poe shared with the students that Ms. Finley, HCS Director of Strategy and Innovation, has requested that they help recruit future student DAC members at the upcoming iRegister event on March 4th. With regards to the ongoing superintendent search, Mr. Poe recommended being cautious when speaking with the media due to possible public perception that we may be speaking on behalf of the DAC. There was also some discussion about DAC duties that could be carried out electronically. Mr. Poe will seek clarification and report back to the DAC.

Subcommittees: Subcommittees were discussed and the DAC was reminded that all areas will need to be researched simultaneously. It was decided that the subcommittees would each have at least 2 members with additional members being assigned to more complex issues. There would be a subcommittee created for each area listed in the Joint Consent Order. The areas of Facilities and Transportation will be combined and handled by the same subcommittee. Ms. Sparks asked for clarification about her role as research chairperson and it was agreed that she would research data and trends at the national level in order to compare to the Huntsville City Schools data.

The following subcommittees were formed:

Student Assignment – Tanisha Lee, Ashley Sparks, and Keith Poe

Equitable Access – Isha Greene, Ashley Sparks, Malik Williams, Hudson Honeywell

Extracurricular Activities – OShea Beckford, Laura Lemley, Talia Hargrove

Faculty – Millie Steber, Preeti Francis, Celena Anderson, Laura Lemley

Facilities & Transportation – Henry Reynolds, Kimberly Flint, Vinny Argentina

Student Discipline – Henry Reynolds, Hudson Honeywell, Kimberly Flint, OShea Beckford, Chaundra Jones, Tanisha Lee, Malik Williams, Celena Anderson

Vinny Argentina and Keith Poe will work on the website.

Laura Lemley moved to approve the subcommittees as listed above. Ashley Sparks seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The subcommittees will develop an easy-to-read summary of their section of the consent order. This will be distributed to the entire DAC by February 8th for review.

District Public Meetings: A discussion about the district public meetings followed. The DAC discussed possible dates, locations, and the format for these meetings. Mr. Poe will forward the final dates and locations to Ms. Finley for arrangements to be finalized.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 23rd DAC meeting were reviewed. Isha Greene moved to approve, Laura Lemley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

The minutes of the December 6th DAC meeting were reviewed. Chaundra Jones moved to approve, Millie Steber seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

The minutes of the December 13th public meeting were distributed. Approval was tabled pending the addition of a summary of the questions from that meeting.

The minutes of the January 10th meeting with the superintendent were distributed. Mr. Poe also shared the HCS response to the issues raised. Approval of the minutes was tabled until everyone has a chance to review the response.

Lockboxes, P. O. Box, and BOE Reporting: The DAC discussed lockboxes for the public to submit questions. The DAC will maintain a list of the location of the lockbox at each school on the DAC website. The location and other details for the DAC P.O. Box were also discussed. There was also discussion about stakeholder/consultant participation in DAC meetings. The decision was made that the DAC would seek input as needed for specific subjects. The amendment to the Consent Order also requires that the DAC report to the Board of Education. Keith Poe, Isha Greene, Vinny Argentina, and Ashley Sparks will be reporting to the Board of Education.

Mission Statement – Mr. Poe had sent the mission statement to Judge Haikala for review. This draft was reviewed by Judge Haikala as well as Mr. Gonzales. They have returned an edited version. Mr. Poe shared this with the DAC. We will review and vote on it at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Preeti Francis

DAC Secretary

Approved by the DAC on February 21, 2017