

## **Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting with Mr. Drake (Interim Superintendent)**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2017**

**Annie C. Merts Center**

**Call to Order:** A non-public meeting of the DAC with Interim Superintendent, Mr. Tom Drake, was held at the Annie C. Merts Center on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 5:10p.m. by Chair, Keith Poe.

**Members in Attendance:** Members of the DAC in attendance were Laura Lemley, Isha Greene, Hudson Honeywell, Millie Steber, Celena Anderson, Henry Reynolds, Vinny Argentina, Ashley Sparks, Kimberly Flint, Keith Poe, and Preeti Francis. Mr. Drake, Interim Superintendent, was also present.

A quorum of the DAC was established at this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was the required bi-annual non-public meeting of the DAC with the superintendent of Huntsville City Schools (HCS). Mr. Drake began by sharing the timeline for the search for a new superintendent for HCS and the desired timeline for the transfer of duties. Mr. Poe shared the sequence of events that led to the suspension of DAC activities for most of the first semester and the amendment to the Joint Consent Order. He explained that the goal was to reinforce and clarify the role of the DAC. Mr. Poe then reviewed the changes to Section IX of the Joint Consent Order. The community and media have responded positively to these changes.

Mr. Poe requested an update regarding discipline. Mr. Drake stated that he recently met with HCS staff to discuss ways to improve the BLOOM app. Anecdotal reports are that discipline is better this year but the school system would like data to support these reports. It is unclear at this time when these updates will be ready. He also shared that teachers are currently required to enter data into BLOOM and iNow. This is cumbersome for teachers and has the potential to result in discrepancies. As a result both school registrars and data generalists will begin reporting to the same person – the Director of Assessment and Accountability. The goal is to synchronize BLOOM and iNow by the end of the year. Additionally, the Director of Behavioral Learning is visiting schools across the district to support teachers. Six Behavioral Intervention Counselors have been hired to work with students at the Launch Academy. They are new to HCS. Elementary schools also have Nova counselors who are shared between schools.

Mr. Drake also shared that HCS will not be moving to a centralized registration process as previously planned. He added that the current graduation rate at HCS is 88%. The school system is setting up in-school credit recovery which will continue next year at the Launch Academy.

Student members of the DAC then shared some of their observations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Preeti Francis

DAC Secretary

*Approved by the DAC on February 21, 2017*