

Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) Non-Public Meeting
Tuesday, January 19, 2016
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 19, 2016. Chairperson Chaundra Jones called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

Members in Attendance: Members of the DAC in attendance were Chaundra Jones, Paige Davis, Isha Greene, Talya Hargrove, Ann Kvach, Laura Lemley, Keith Poe, and Melissa Thompson. Also in attendance was Huntsville City Schools (HCS) Director of Strategy and Innovation Edith Pickens.

The minutes from the November and December DAC non-public meetings and the January meeting with Superintendent Dr. Casey Wardynski were approved.

Ms. Jones presented a letter submitted by a Huntsville City Schools (HCS) parent via the Consent Order Implementation link on the HCS website. The DAC discussed his concerns keeping in mind that the purpose of the committee as clarified by the HCS attorneys and Department of Justice attorneys at the December 15, 2015, meeting is to serve as an information gathering committee which gathers and collects information received from parents, teachers and students within the community regarding the implementation of the consent order. The committee decided to reply to his letter with an appreciation for his interest and with contact information for HCS personnel who may be able to answer his questions. The DAC will also use his letter as part of the information being gathered for their annual report.

Ms. Pickens gave the committee an update on the parent and student surveys that were discussed at the January 5, 2016, meeting with Dr. Wardynski. Ms. Davis will create a Google document to gather the committee's questions. Ms. Hargrove will forward the questions to Ms. Pickens.

The committee discussed the format for the next public meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 6:30 pm at the Lee High School Lecture Hall. While the primary mission of the DAC is to serve as an information gathering committee, the members felt it was important to address some of the concerns that members of the community have shared. The committee discussed the possibility of having different HCS personnel address specific questions that have been posed to the committee in advance. Ms. Pickens will check with HCS attorney JR Brooks to see if this is possible. Ms. Greene recommended conveying the expectations for the meeting ahead of time via the announcements made about the meeting. Ms. Thompson also recommended organizing the discussion according to the different sections of the Consent Order (the Green factors) with explanations about what topics are covered under each one. Ms. Lemley will create a feedback form that attendees at the public meeting can fill out to share information about questions or concerns they have related to the different areas of the Consent Order. Ms. Kvach also suggested the committee recommend to members of the community to share their concerns via the HCS website in order to have a written record of their comments.

Ms. Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Kvach
DAC Secretary