

Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting with Dr. Wardynski
Tuesday, January 5, 2016
Annie C. Merts Center

Call to Order: The bi-annual meeting of the Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) with Huntsville City Schools (HCS) Superintendent Dr. Casey Wardynski was held at the Annie C. Merts Center on Tuesday, January 5, 2016. Chairperson Chaundra Jones called the meeting to order at 6:07 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 were HCS Director of Strategy and Innovation Edith Pickens and HCS Superintendent Dr. Wardynski.

Ms. Jones updated Dr. Wardynski on the committee's work. She shared that at the December DAC meeting the committee met with the HCS and Department of Justice (DOJ) attorneys via teleconference in order to clarify the DAC's role.

Ms. Thompson stated the committee hoped to gather broad consensus of the community's input to share with Dr. Wardynski in their bi-annual meetings. One way the committee discussed gathering this information was developing a survey to distribute to parents.

Dr. Wardynski shared details of the teacher survey that the district conducted in November of 2015 in which 767 out of 1624 possible teachers responded (47% response rate). The survey was conducted anonymously and asked questions on topics such as teachers' areas of concern, formative assessments, professional development, and issues the teachers would like Dr. Wardynski to focus on. The committee raised the possibility of having the current student survey taken by those in grades 3-12 be expanded to include an area about discipline and the Code of Conduct. The committee also proposed the idea of creating a parent survey about discipline and the Code of Conduct.

Ms. Jones asked Dr. Wardynski for more information about the teacher training video on discipline and the Code of Conduct being developed by HCS Director of Behavioral Learning Greg Hicks and HCS attorney Chris Pape. Mr. Hicks has asked the teachers for feedback on the implementation of the Code of Conduct, what concerns they have, and any possible solutions they may want to share with their colleagues. Mr. Hicks and Mr. Pape will develop the training from the teachers' responses. Ms. Jones requested that the DAC be able to view the video when it is completed.

Ms. Lemley proposed the possibility of the DAC creating a feedback form for the next public meeting to gather information pertinent to the work of the DAC. Dr. Wardynski discussed the possibility of an interactive digital wall as well.

Ms. Davis shared her experience of visiting the DOJ in December in Washington, DC. She was the keynote speaker at a conference of DOJ attorneys and shared her school experiences from before and after the implementation of the Consent Order.

The committee selected Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 6:30 pm for the DAC's spring public meeting. Ms. Pickens will secure the facility.

Ms. Jones adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Kvach
DAC Secretary