

## Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) Public Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

Mae Jemison High School

**Call to Order:** A public meeting of the DAC was held at the Mae Jemison High Schools Auditorium on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 6:15p.m. by Chair, Keith Poe.

**Members in Attendance:** Members of the DAC in attendance were Vinny Argentina, Keith Poe, Kimberly Flint, Isha Greene, Millie Steber, Ashley Sparks, Chaundra Jones, Oshea Beckford, Talya Hargrove, and Preeti Francis. Members of the community and representatives from Huntsville City Schools were also present. Attorneys from the Department of Justice joined the meeting online. The meeting was televised and live streamed by ETV.

A quorum of the DAC was established at this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was the required public meeting of the DAC during the first semester of the school year. Mr. Poe welcomed those in attendance as well as those watching the televised meeting. He gave a brief overview of the timeline of events at the beginning of this school year to include our meeting with Special Master, Gonzales, the suspension of DAC activities, and finally the amendment to the Joint Consent Order. Members of the DAC then introduced themselves. Ms. Jones reviewed a list of the 2015-2016 DAC's accomplishments. Mr. Argentina then reviewed the amendments to the Joint Consent Order as they related to enhancing communication with the Huntsville Community.

Ms. Francis reviewed changes that pertained to the operating procedures of the DAC. Ms. Sparks reviewed changes related to the selection of DAC members as well as the review of DAC members for possible conflicts of interest. No such conflicts were identified by attorneys for either party or the judge. Ms. Flint reviewed changes to the meeting requirements. Mr. Poe then reminded the audience that the DAC is an extension of the community.

Ms. Greene then oversaw the process of taking questions from the audience. This was done by areas of oversight as described in the Joint Consent Order.

Student Assignment – Audience asked for and received clarification about this section. A parent asked about the process by which students are granted majority to minority transfers and whether students with IEPs do not get transferred. There was also a question as to whether dual enrollment classes are not offered at high schools to avoid competition with the College Academy. There was also a question about student access to ACT prep and data about performance on the ACT.

Extracurricular Activities – There was a question about sports teams at magnet schools. The audience was reminded about specific activities that fall under this section in the consent order.

Facilities – There was a question about whether specific schools were being used to their full capacity as well as a question about parking for big events.

Student Discipline – There were questions about discipline procedures and the audience was reminded about the Behavioral Learning Guide.

Faculty – There was a question about whether teacher salaries were competitive with neighboring counties.

Equitable Access – An audience member asked whether high schools being on different schedules – block versus traditional 7 periods – was a barrier to equitable access to course offerings. Another audience member asked about access to ACT prep materials.

Those in attendance were encouraged to submit their questions in writing as well. Mr. Poe closed the meeting with a reminder that the DAC will be holding public meetings in each district and that questions can be emailed to the DAC as well.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Preeti Francis

DAC Secretary

*Approved by the DAC on February 21, 2017*