

Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) Non-Public Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2015
Annie C. Merts Center

Call to Order: A non-public meeting of the DAC was held at the Annie C. Merts Center on Tuesday, December 15, 2015. Chairperson Chaundra Jones called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Members in Attendance: Members of the DAC in attendance were Chaundra Jones, Troy Garner, Ann Kvach, Laura Lemley, and Melissa Thompson. Also in attendance was Huntsville City Schools (HCS) Director of Strategy and Innovation Edith Pickens and HCS Board of Education attorney Chris Pape. Calling in were DAC members Paige Davis, Isha Greene, and Talya Hargrove; HCS BOE attorney JR Brooks; and Department of Justice (DOJ) attorneys Andrea Hamilton and Kelly Gardner.

Ms. Jones asked the attorneys to clarify the role of the DAC. The attorneys reiterated that the role of the DAC is to advise the superintendent and inform the Court on the progress of the implementation of the Consent Order. Ms. Hamilton further shared that the DAC's role is to gather information from the community, but that the DAC is not responsible for answering questions that may arise. Ms. Gardner elaborated that the DAC is not the intermediary for the community and the school district. She encouraged the DAC members to ask questions of the people who pose questions to them. Ms. Kvach asked how the members of the DAC should obtain information from the community. Ms. Gardner shared that the DAC could have additional meetings, and Mr. Brooks added that the DAC can request statistical information that the district gathers as part of the process. Mrs. Thompson asked if the DAC has a role in reporting back to the community on the information that is gathered. Mr. Brooks stated that the DAC's annual report to the superintendent will be shared with the Board of Education and the community. Ms. Hamilton added that when the DAC has their public meetings they can include a summary of the DAC operations and highlights of the report. Ms. Thompson raised the concern that the DAC could be viewed as an alternate dispute resolution committee by some. Ms. Hamilton stated that the role of the DAC is to gather information and questions, but not to become an alternate dispute resolution committee. Ms. Gardner added that the committee should ask the community how does their concern related to the Consent Order to assure that it relates to the scope of the DAC.

After the conclusion of the teleconference with the attorneys, the DAC continued the conversation of how to best collect information from the community. In addition to the data that the district can provide to the committee, the possibility of doing a parent survey and providing a feedback form at the next public meeting were discussed. Ms. Pickens shared that HCS Director of Behavioral Learning Greg Hicks and HCS attorney Chris Pape are developing a teacher training video on discipline and the Code of Conduct. 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. The committee talked about the possibility of viewing the completed video.

The committee discussed what topics they want to discuss at their upcoming meeting with superintendent Dr. Wardynski on January 5, 2016.

Ms. Jones adjourned the meeting at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Kvach
DAC Secretary