

Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) Non-Public Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 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, March 15, 2016. Chairperson Chaundra Jones called the meeting to order at 6:39 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, Ashley Lopez, and Melissa Thompson. Also in attendance were Huntsville City Schools (HCS) Director of Strategy and Innovation Edith Pickens and HCS Board of Education Attorney Chris Pape. Department of Justice (DOJ) attorney Andrea Hamilton participated via teleconference. A quorum was present to conduct business.

The minutes from the January meeting were approved as amended.

Mr. Pape passed out copies of page 73 of the consent order highlighting paragraph five which states, "The Superintendent will provide the Desegregation Advisory Committee ("DAC") an opportunity to review and provide input about revisions to be implemented in the 2016-17 school year to the Student Code of Conduct, including sessions in which there is the opportunity for community input." Mr. Pape presented copies of the draft version of the Secondary Behavioral Learning Guide. A committee of 18 elementary and secondary principals and teachers has been working with Mr. Pape, Director of Behavioral Learning Mr. Gregory Hicks, and discipline experts to create the Elementary and Secondary Behavioral Learning Guides. Rollout will be announced soon for wider feedback. Each school will have a teacher liaison to meet with a district behavioral team to assist with implementation and assure equity across district. There will also be a parent educational component to help parents become familiar with the new guide. DAC members were encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback through both oral and written questions and comments.

Mr. Pape began by outlining the purpose of the behavioral learning guide and the creation of a positive school climate. He further explained the shift in practice away from zero tolerance but to progressive discipline while highlighting the district understands the need to provide teachers comprehensive supports so that they can adopt new practices to support students. Ms. Pickens shared that nationally school districts are moving away from zero tolerance to more positive behavior models. Mr. Pape shared that there will be hyperlinks for the teachers to help understand terms and gain support and resources on the various parts of the guide.

The next section reviewed was the Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports. Mr. Pape highlighted the development of a Student Behavior App for school personnel to collect and use data about student behavior. Next he explained progressive intervention and discipline and the new response levels. Additionally the behavioral learning committee is exploring the creation of a district resource team of interdisciplinary adults to work within feeder patterns to support students. Mr. Pape highlighted some of the terms and definitions used in the behavioral learning guide including Response Strategies, Disciplinary Consequences, and Intervention. Throughout the review of the new Behavioral Learning Guide DAC members asked questions and shared comments and concerns regarding the proposed document.

Mrs. Pickens gave an overview of the professional development video on the Code of Conduct and discipline created by Mr. Hicks for teachers that was viewed in January. Dr. Cooper gave an introduction and overview and encouraged teachers to contact her directly if they were not being allowed to send students to the office. After that two teachers shared their experience and strategies, and a couple of administrators gave their experience and strategies.

A discussion of the agenda of the April 5th public meeting was held. The agenda will include a summary of the DAC's accomplishments to date and the opportunity for the public to submit feedback on the implementation of the Consent Order. Laura Lemley will create a feedback form which will include the list of Green Factors so that the public is aware of the topics related to the Consent Order.

The DAC decided to reschedule the April 19 meeting for Tuesday, May 3 due to the Superintendent's State of the School address on April 19.

Ms. Jones adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Kvach
DAC Secretary