

Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) Meeting  
Tuesday, September 22, 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, September 22, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

**Members in Attendance:** Members of the DAC in attendance were Paige Davis, Troy Garner, Isha Greene, Talya Hargrove, Chaundra Jones, Ann Kvach, Laura Lemley, Ashley Lopez, Natalie Renee Murrell, Keith Poe, and Melissa Thompson. Nicole Balthazar participated via speakerphone. Also in attendance were Huntsville City Schools (HCS) Director of Strategy and Innovation Edith Pickens, HCS Board of Education Attorneys J.R. Brooks and Chris Pape, and Department of Justice (DOJ) Attorney Andrea Hamilton.

The first two orders of business were to elect the committee's officers and create the committee's operating procedures. The DAC members established the below listed positions and took nominations for these roles. The following members were elected to serve in these positions.

- Chairperson – Chaundra Jones
- Co-Chairperson/Parliamentarian – Keith Poe
- Secretary – Ann Kvach
- Assistant Secretary – Natalie Renee Murrell
- Compliance/Liaison – Talya Hargrove
- Student Representatives – Paige Davis and Ashley Lopez

The following subcommittees and chairpersons were also elected.

- Research and Investigation – Nicole Balthazar
- Annual Report – Melissa Thompson
- Communications – Isha Greene

The committee decided to meet monthly on the third Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 pm. The required December meeting with Superintendent Dr. Wardynski will be scheduled at a later date to coordinate with his schedule. It was decided that the HCS and DOJ attorneys do not need to be present at the regularly scheduled meetings of the DAC. The DAC requested, however, that Ms. Pickens be present at these meetings. Ms. Pickens will be unable to attend the October meeting so she asked the committee to compile any questions they have and contact her via phone that evening.

According to the consent order, "at least two weeks before each public meeting the District will disseminate broadly notices concerning the meeting through multiple sources, including hard copy fliers sent home with students and the District's website." Ms. Greene will create a flier to be reviewed by the committee and finalized by Friday, September 25, 2015. This flier will be sent home with all HCS students on Monday, October 12, 2015. Ms. Hargrove will forward this flier after it is approved by the

committee to Ms. Pickens so that the meeting can be announced via hard copy fliers with students; robocalls on Monday, October 12, 2015, and Sunday, October 25, 2015; emails to HCS families; Facebook; banner on the HCS website; and ETV (Educational Television).

The committee decided that the quorum for conducting business and voting would be eight out of the twelve members. At least one of the votes needs to be from one of the student representatives. The results, including the dissenting opinions, will be recorded in the minutes per the consent order. Further plans of action for operating procedures for the DAC will be determined as needed.

At the committee's initial training the committee identified Student Discipline, Positive School Climate, and Effective Classroom Management as an area they would like to focus on this year. In order to learn more about what the school district has already done and is planning to do in the future, HCS Attorney Chris Pape presented on the topic of the Student Code of Conduct. This is the same presentation currently being offered in all five of the district high schools.

Because Chairperson Ms. Jones needed to leave the meeting early, Co-Chairperson Mr. Poe adjourned the meeting at 9:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Kvach  
DAC Secretary