

Desegregation Advisory Committee Public Meeting

October 17, 2017
Alabama

Huntsville,

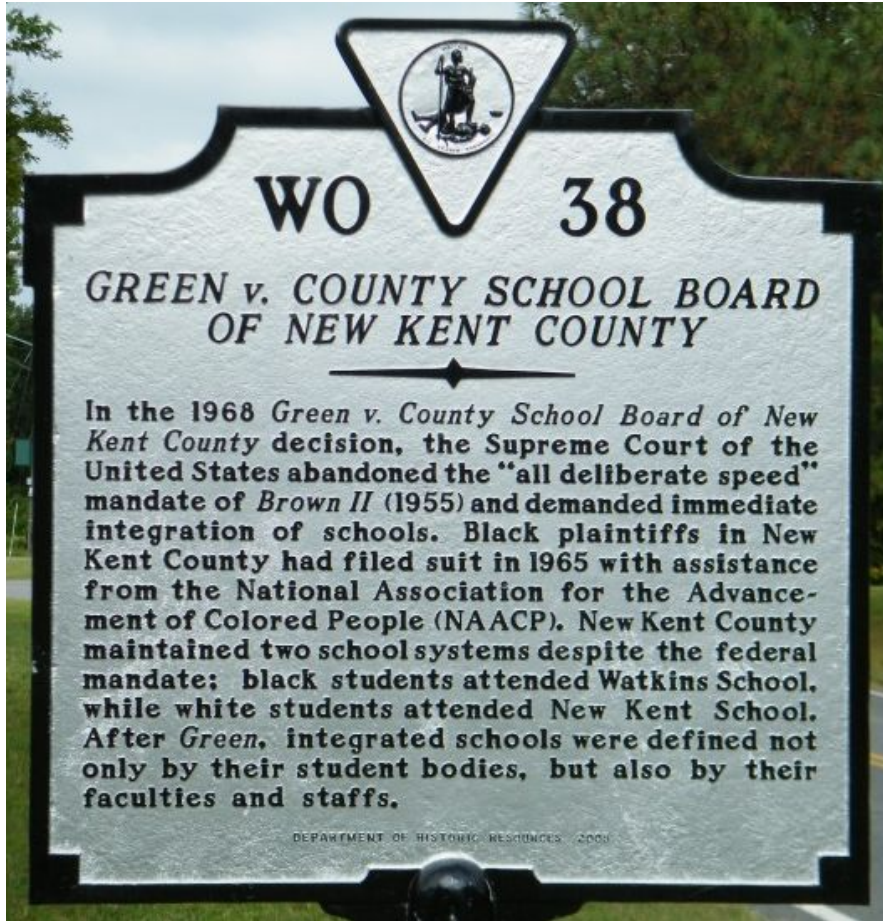
A brief history

1963 The Court issued its order mandating desegregation of Huntsville City Schools.

While some desegregation did take place, progress was slow.



Sonnie Hereford IV, 6, holds his father's hand as he arrives for his second day of integrated classes at Fifth Avenue Elementary School in Huntsville, Ala., Sept. 10, 1963. There were no incidents. Sonnie was turned away from the same school Friday by Alabama state troopers. (AP Photo)



1968 Green vs County School Board in Virginia mandated parity in “every facet of school operations – faculty, staff, transportation, extracurricular activities and facilities” for schools across the nation.

1970 The Court ordered the Huntsville Board to collaborate with the United States to prepare “a plan for unitary school system not based on race which meets the requirements of law.”

Many of the requirements of the Court's 1970 order were not fulfilled and Huntsville schools effectively remained segregated.

In 2014, the discrepancies between the academic offerings in the district's predominantly black schools and the district's predominantly white schools were striking.

2014 The Court directed the United States and the Huntsville Board of Education to mediation to attempt to negotiate "a roadmap to the end of judicial supervision."



**HUNTSVILLE CITY
SCHOOLS**



Photo Credit: WAAY

The United States and Huntsville Board of Education produced a consent order that addresses in some detail student assignment, equitable access to course offerings and programs, extracurricular activities, faculty, facilities, and student discipline.

2015 The Court approved and entered the consent order. The Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC) was created as part of the order.

DAC Mission Statement

We, the members of the Desegregation Advisory Committee (DAC), are an independent, volunteer group composed of Huntsville City Schools (HCS) students and parents with children enrolled in HCS. We are responsible for monitoring HCS's implementation of the Consent Order by reviewing data, making recommendations to the superintendent, and filing reports with the Court. We serve as a voice of the community and an early warning system for developing challenges. We gather information from both the public and HCS and we make assessments about whether, in our view, HCS is meeting its obligation to faithfully implement the Consent Order.

We are not a second board of education and do not have authority to set HCS policy. We are not responsible for assigning students, staff, or faculty to schools, for hiring or firing HCS employees, or for establishing HCS budget priorities. We recognize that our ultimate responsibility is to improve the future for all children in the Huntsville City School System and to help finally remove the tenacious and immoral vestiges of segregation.

2016/17 DAC Recommendations

- Redirect and prioritize M-to-M transfers to less integrated schools in the system
- Consider school location relative to teachers' homes as part of the decision process used for teacher assignment if transfers are necessary
- Look for a creative solution to meeting the funding needs of special education students outside of the methods currently implemented
- Utilization of industry and community partnerships should be researched & improved
- Make the process or considerations for assignment to hiring & evaluation committees publicly available
- Reexamine the practice of frequent faculty transfers and consider classroom stability and the overall morale of teachers more heavily

2016/17 DAC Recommendations

- Provide more training for all teachers on classroom behavioral management techniques that change or shape students' behavior before they get out of hand
- Attention should be given to the lack of student services available to rezoned students at non-Title I schools
- Ensure that there is consistency across the District with regard to implementation and operation of Problem Solving Teams
- Teachers (including substitute teachers) need additional training on the BLG and the other content of the Consent Order
- Work with the transportation contractor to remove the burdensome travel times for all students, especially those in M-M transfer and Magnet programs.

Contacting the DAC

You can send confidential comments or feedback to the DAC via:

- hsvdac.com
- hsvdac@gmail.com
- Comment boxes in every school in the District



- PO Box (available soon)

Resources

Court Documents, DAC Reports, Minutes, etc
hsvdac.com/documents/

Huntsville City Schools Consent Order Info
tinyurl.com/hsv-consent-order

The goal of the meeting tonight is to collect information from the community* related to the consent order & identify discrepancies between schools.

*you

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Student Assignment

Zoning updates, Feeder Pattern changes, Majority to Minority transfers, Magnet Programs, and College Academy

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Equitable Access to Course Offerings and Programs

Students should have equal access to all of the courses, programs, and services offered in Huntsville City Schools, and all classroom instruction should be consistent in quality and rigor throughout the District.

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Extracurricular Activities

Each HCS school will provide students with an equal opportunity to participate in non-athletic extracurricular activities including academic teams, leadership clubs and JROTC. HCS will take measures to ensure that all students are aware of these extracurricular opportunities and that they are available to all students, and will support and encourage similar participation goals among all schools.

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Faculty

The HR committees involved in hiring, firing, discipline, etc of HCS faculty and staff will have a similar racial makeup to HCS staff across the district. HCS will have an equitable number of black principals and teachers promoted to leadership positions. HCS will not make decisions on discipline, lay-offs, or salaries based on race. Teachers will be assigned so that the racial breakdown in a school is within 15 points of the District-wide average.

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Facilities

School buildings, equipment, and technology must be equal across the District. Portable classrooms will be phased out, playgrounds will be modernized, and every school with 7th & 8th grades will have an interactive learning lab (SMALLab).

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Student Discipline, Positive School Climate, and Effective Classroom Management

There should be no racial discrimination in the implementation of the Behavioral Learning Guide (BLG), more effective disciplinary actions when there is a behavioral problem, and an emphasis on a positive school climate.

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Transportation

HCS and the DOJ agreed that they would file a joint motion with the Court requesting that the Court declare the District unitary regarding transportation. However we have not received any update on that motion and will continue to monitor transportation.

Questions | Concerns | Feedback

Related to DAC