

Desegregation Advisory Committee Public Meeting

November 7, 2018

Huntsville, Alabama

A brief history

1963 Dr. Sonnie Hereford brought a lawsuit resulting in a court order mandating desegregation of Huntsville City Schools.

1970 Another, more detailed court order was entered.



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)

Many of the requirements of the Court's 1970 order were not fulfilled and Huntsville schools effectively remained segregated. In fact the case was dormant for about 20 years!

2014 When HCS moved to re-zone the school system, the United States objected. The Court ordered United States and the Huntsville Board of Education to mediation to agree upon a student assignment plan and a pathway to **unitary status**.



**HUNTSVILLE CITY
SCHOOLS**



Photo Credit: WAAY

2015 The U.S. and HCS agreed to a consent order that addresses **GREEN FACTORS**: student assignment, equitable access to course offerings and programs, extracurricular activities, faculty, facilities, and student discipline.

Green Factors

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

Equitable Access to Course Offerings and Programs - equal access to all of the courses, programs, and services; all classroom instruction should be consistent in quality and rigor

Extracurricular Activities - equal opportunity to participate in non-athletic extracurricular activities including academic teams, leadership clubs and JROTC.

Green Factors

Faculty - 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.

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

Green Factors

Facilities - School buildings, equipment, and technology must be equal; portable classrooms will be phased out, playgrounds will be modernized, and every school with 7th & 8th grades will have an interactive learning lab (SMALLab)

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.

Facts and Common Misperceptions about the Consent Order

MYTH: The school district just wants to achieve unitary status so it can eventually revert to segregation.

FACT: HCS achieving unitary status will not permanently protect it from going back to court at a later date.

MYTH: The Consent Order just buses students all over the school district.

FACT: There is an application process for students who want to participate in **Majority-to-Minority** transfers. There are about 200 - 300 applications per year. Students are selected in a lottery process.* HCS's last court report showed 498 out of over 24,000 students were offered and accepted the transfer. **

*Source: <https://www.huntsvillecityschools.org/newscenter/video/upclose-majority-minority-transfers>

**Source: HCS Third Consent Order Report - <https://www.huntsvillecityschools.org/about/our-district/consent-order/third-consent-order-reports>

Facts and Common Misperceptions about the Consent Order

MYTH: Desegregation is impossible. Also, think of rumors you have heard in social media and even news reports.

FACT: The Consent Order is an effort to provide Equitable Access.

Equity is providing the same opportunities.

Equality is treating everyone the same.

The Consent Order is multi-faceted and addresses all of the Green Factors which ultimately contributes to *all* students having equal opportunities.

2017/18 DAC Recommendations

The DAC analyzed implementation of the order, including data provided by HCS, and made recommendations in a 56-page report.

Most recommendations involved supporting logistics of implementation, standardizing teacher training, communicating with parents, and supporting and empowering teachers.

Report can be found on our website, [hsvdac.com](http://www.hsvdac.com) and specifically at http://www.hsvdac.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/2017-18_DAC_Report_Responses.pdf

Consent Order Successes

There are many successes resulting from the consent order, including:

- Math Teams in 100% of all elementary schools
- Elementary Math professional development
- National Junior Honor Society and National Honor Society requirements standardized across district
- Power Hour to increase student participation in clubs
- Each high school now offers a minimum of 12 AP/IB classes
- 134 training sessions held across the District in area of Cultural Responsiveness

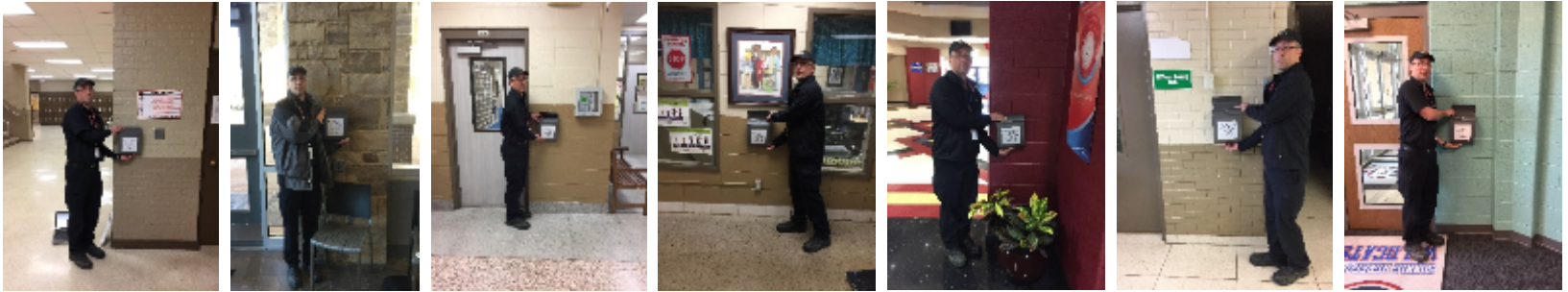
Consent Order Successes

- Better vigilance regarding achievement gaps
- Gifted and talented - All schools have equitable and appropriate spaces in schools. Staffing post-Consent Order is vastly improved over staffing pre-Consent Order
- Hiring/Faculty - Interview committees conducted a total of 638 interviews. Each of these interviews was conducted by a diverse team of HCS administrators and teachers

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



- P.O.Box 2871, Huntsville, AL, 35804

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

QUESTIONS | COMMENTS | FEEDBACK