

**DESEGREGATION MONITORING COMMITTEE**  
EIGHTH FLOOR - 1211 MCGEE STREET  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64108

**CCRP**

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July 8, 1997

The Honorable Judge Dean Whipple  
U.S. District Court for the Western District  
of Missouri  
811 Grand Ave., Room 813  
Kansas City, MO 64108

Dear Judge Whipple:

The Desegregation Monitoring Committee (DMC) met on Tuesday, July 8, 1997, relative to the issue of communicating to the Court, and its recommendation to the Court on the value and utility of external continuing oversight and monitoring of the desegregation case in the Kansas City, Missouri School District (KCMSD or District). Members in attendance were as noted below:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Jeff Bay	Budget
Carl DiCenzo	Desegregation
Chuck James	Education
Javier Perez	Desegregation
Mike Sancho	Education
Eugene Eubanks	General Chair

The Committee, in a unanimous action, voted to communicate to the Court and the Parties the following:

The DMC believes there is a continuing need for strong and vigorous oversight and monitoring by an external body(ies) with demonstrated understanding and knowledge in budgeting and educational programs. This body should exercise authority over administration in curricula, instruction, and financial aspects of the KCMSD because the present administration has not implemented nor developed adequate plans, procedures, and strategies to operate the District in an efficient and effective manner. Also, the body should

construct a structure that ensures regular and systematic assessment relative to the extent of implementation of desegregation programs, and that subsequent evaluation of educational programs and personnel are occurring in the District. Among the continued shortcomings and deficiencies identified by the DMC are the following:

- 1) The District personnel presently at the senior level have not adequately articulated nor demonstrated the ability to lend purpose and vision to the mission of educating the students in the KCMSD;
- 2) The central level administrative staffing has vacant leadership positions in testing and evaluation, instruction area, and management information systems that most negatively impacts on the District relative to the implementation of sound educational practices;
- 3) The decision-making process relative to curricula and instructional improvement has not provided adequate support and other resources to key instructional personnel charged with designing and implementing needed instructional and curricula improvements;
- 4) The administration has not sufficiently provided for needed meaningful community and school-based involvement relative to school closings or elimination of magnet themes;
- 5) The needed professional development plan for the 1997-98 school year has been delegated to the school-based level without providing adequate training and preparation for site-based management;
- 6) Recommendations from the administration relative to the appointment of key leadership positions at the building-level are not being determined by accepted educational standards of competency, commitment, and prior effective performance;
- 7) The administration continues to attempt to or make decisions relative to contracting with software vendors based on less than objective criteria. In addition, the administration continues to attempt to use vendors whose performance in the past have been clearly inadequate.

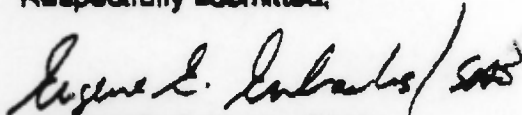
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It is concluded by the DMC, by unanimous action, that the above-noted numerated shortcomings (not in any way intended to be an inclusive list), plus an administration that has not yet demonstrated the ability to aggressively and effectively put in place an operational plan for effective day-to-day operation of the District, necessitates the appointment of a strong, independent person(s) with adequate resources and authority to work with the Court to present a meaningful desegregation plan, and implement the plan so the desegregation plan and relief to Plaintiffs children becomes a reality in the KCMSD.

It has also come to the attention of the DMC that the issue of the cost of the DMC has been brought to the attention of the Court. The expenditures for the DMC for FY96 were \$237,069.26, and the anticipated expenditures for the DMC for FY97 are approximately \$220,000. This budget provides for 3.5 staff persons, office, expenses, travel, and hourly compensation to the committee. The DMC further calls to the attention of the Court that Judge Clark, on all occasions where Parties have contested actions or behavior of the DMC, has complimented the DMC on its behavior and performance as an arm of the Court, in assisting the Court in this desegregation case. The record will show that actions of the DMC were instrumental in major savings, far exceeding the cost of the DMC, in desegregation areas such as purchasing, construction, duplicative and unneeded central administrative staff, software and hardware expenditures, maintenance, and transportation, etc.

Thank you for your attention to our communication.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eugene E. Eubanks" followed by a stylized flourish or initials.

Eugene E. Eubanks, Chair  
Desegregation Monitoring Committee

EEE:sao

cc: DMC  
Parties