

**Howard County NAACP
Education Committee Report
August 2009**

August 24, 2009

Submitted by Dr. Rhonda Jones, Chairperson

Committee Members

Dr. Luther Mathias, Mrs. Fannie Mathias, Mrs. Annette Taylor, Dr. Kim DeBerry, Ms. Faenita Dilworth, Miss JaMai Sanders, Mrs. Nicki Sanders, Mrs. Melissa Bradby, and Mrs. Khadijah Supreme

I. Activities and Deliverables:

- A.** On 8/14, the Education Committee donated 30 new backpacks and school supplies to students at Hilltop Gardens Apartments in Ellicott City. On 8/18, we hosted a "Back-to-School/Stay-in-School" event in partnership with the Howard County Public School System's Community Based Learning Center at Forest Ridge Apartments (formerly Stevens Forest Apartments). Neighborhood children who attended engaged in activities to enhance their language skills and were given, at no charge, backpacks and school supplies. Photos from the event will soon be posted to our webpage.
- B.** In July, the Committee held a planning session and set the following goals for the upcoming school year. We will focus on raising the percentage of minority children in the Gifted & Talent program and AP courses through targeted awareness initiatives, and increasing parental involvement by encouraging parents to attend their children's parent/teacher conferences and participate in the school's PTA. In addition, we will have a Stay-in-School Rally, sponsor several "Reading is Fun" nights, and continue to work with the School Board, Superintendent Sydney Cousin, the Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP), and the Community Based Learning Centers to help close the achievement gap that still exists in Howard County.

II. Civil Rights Inquiries:

- A.** An alleged teacher-to-teacher sexual harassment was referred to the Committee Chairperson. Documentation indicates that the Howard County Public School System investigated the matter and took action, but the complainant was not satisfied with the outcome. She did not, however, return three voice-mail messages left by the Chairperson. Therefore, the Education Committee is not currently involved in the matter.

III. Education Plans

- A.** The Committee has approximately 60 children's books that it is looking to use for a "Reading is Fun" night or other event. We are working with the BSAP coordinators to find an appropriate venue.
- B.** To help achieve our goals for the 2009/2010 School Year, the Committee will contact members of the Black parents associations to arrange a time to meet with them to see how we can best work together.