

The Howard County NAACP Education Committee Overview

Since the establishment of the NAACP in Howard County in 1944, education has been a priority on its civil rights agenda. Under the leadership of Rev. John Holland, Dr. Silas Craft, Elhart Flurry and Dr. Morris Woodson, issues of segregation and inequitable allocations of resources were dealt with in numerous ways. A black PTA was formed and parents joined in with the NAACP in opposition to the treatment of Black students. As a result of their efforts, the Harriet Tubman Junior-Senior High School was built and for the first time, Black students were able to earn a high school diploma in Howard County. After desegregation was made a federal law in 1954, new issues arose concerning the placement of Black teachers and administrators in formerly all-white schools. The opposition was tremendous and resulted in some teachers and administrators leaving Howard County for positions elsewhere. The case of Elhart Flurry was unique in that the NAACP filed a court suit, which resulted in his being reinstated as a principal.

In the mid 1980's the NAACP joined a task force to determine what caused Black students to face failure in the Howard County School System. As a result of the findings of the task force, the Black Student Achievement Program (BSAP) was established under the leadership of Gloria Washington Wallace.

When Natalie Woodson was appointed Education Chair in 1989, she was instructed to provide support to BSAP as a major priority. That relationship continues to the present time.

Duties of the NAACP Education Committee

The Education Committee shall:

- Seek to eliminate segregation and other discriminatory practices in public education
- Study local educational conditions affecting minority groups
- Investigate the public school system and zoning for new schools
- Familiarize itself with textbook materials used in the schools and seek to eliminate material which is racially derogatory
- Seek to stimulate school attendance
- Keep informed of school conditions and strive to correct abuses where found, such as overcrowding, deteriorating physical conditions of buildings, student/teacher ratios, etc.

Howard County NAACP Initiatives

December	Annual Review of Social Studies Textbooks
January	Development of an annual report card to assess the status of African American students in attendance, graduation rates, drop-out rates,

	suspensions, Maryland School Assessments (MSA) scores and High School Assessments (HSA)
March	Annual meeting with the Board of Education and Superintendent to discuss concerns
On-going	Advocates for parents and students at ARD meetings; Suspension conferences, IEP conferences: school placement issues
May	Recognition of “A” schools for rankings on the NAACP Report Card
June	Education Awards totaling \$2500.00 annually for graduating seniors
August	Back To School/Stay In School Rally annually, distributing school supplies & parent handbooks
September	Back To School Night With the Superintendent to acquaint community about school concerns and needs
On-going	Participation on school system committees to insure representation for equity issues: Human Resources Advisory Committee: Equity Committee, Social Studies Advisory Committee, Career & Technology Education Oversight Committee
On-going	Presenting position papers on current issues

Major Focus: 2001-2007

Elimination of the achievement gap in response to the National NAACP “Call For Action In Education” issued in June 2001.

Issues addressed in the Call For Action include:

- Advanced or challenging curriculum
- High stakes testing
- Certified and qualified teachers
- Diverse school workforce
- Smaller class size
- Drop-out prevention
- Disciplinary policies and procedures
- Resegregation/redistricting
- Affirmative action in higher education

Members of The Howard County Education Committee

Mrs. Natalie Woodson, Chair
Dr. Luther Mathias

Dr. Rhonda Jones, Vice Chair
Dr. Luther Mathias

Mrs. Annette Taylor

Mr. Cherry

Committee Meeting Dates

(Closed To The Public)

4th Monday of each month, 5:15 P.M., United Methodist Conference Center, 7178
Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD