

BACKGROUND: **ATLANTA**

**A Handbook for Reporters
covering the desegregation
of Atlanta Public Schools**

prepared by

OASIS

Organizations Assisting Schools in September

Room 813, 50 Whitehall Street, S.W.

Atlanta 3, Georgia

A List of People You May Want to Interview

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent: Dr. John W. Letson
City Hall — Ja 2-3381

Deputy Superintendent: Dr. Rual W. Stephens

ATLANTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chairman: L. J. O'Callaghan
11 Marietta St., N. W. — Ja 1-0238

Attorney: A. C. (Pete) Latimer
Healey Building — 521-1282

ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Chief: Herbert T. Jenkins
175 Decatur St., S.E. — Ja 2-7363

ATLANTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

President: Ben S. Gilmer
American Telephone Co.: 529-8611
Executive Vice President: Opie L. Shelton
Commerce Building — 521-0845

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Eugene Cook
State Judicial Building — Ja 5-0401

ATTORNEYS FOR THE TRANSFER STUDENTS

Donald L. Hollowell
859 Hunter St., S.W. — Ja 5-8372
E. E. Moore, Jr.
175 Auburn Ave., N.E. — Ja 4-6861

FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

Frank A. Hooper, Jr.
Old Post Office Building — Mu 8-3517

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOLS

Chairman: John A. Sibley
Trust Company of Georgia — Ja 2-6000

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

S. Ernest Vandiver
State Capitol — Ja 1-1776

GREATER ATLANTA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

President: Dr. Arthur Vann Gibson
Church Office: Tr 2-8939
Executive Director: Dr. Loren T. Jenks
163 Walton St., N.W. — Ja 3-2796

GREATER ATLANTA AND GEORGIA COUNCILS ON HUMAN RELATIONS

Director (Atlanta): Mrs. Walter Paschall
41 Exchange Pl., S.E. — 525-6468
Director (Georgia): Mrs. William C. Pauley
41 Exchange Pl., S.E. — 525-6468

GUTS (GEORGIANS UNWILLING TO SURRENDER)

Lester G. Maddox

Home: Ce 3-4374, Business: Tr 4-9344

HOPE, INC. (HELP OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION)

Chairman: Mrs. Thomas M. Breeden

Home: Bl 5-3820

LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ATLANTA AND GEORGIA

President (Atlanta): Mrs. Rushton Coulborn
1036 Peachtree St., N.E. — 876-0732

President (Georgia): Mrs. Fleming Law
7 - 17th St. — Tr 2-4075

Public Relations Chairman: Mrs. Edward
Vinson, Dr 7-5286

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA

William B. Hartsfield

City Hall — Ja 2-4463

N. A. A. C. P.—ATLANTA BRANCH

President: Reverend Samuel W. Williams
Church Office: Mu 8-0206

Executive Director: James Gibson
236 Auburn Ave., N.E. — Mu 8-6064

OASIS (ORGANIZATIONS ASSISTING SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER)

General Chairman: Mrs. Philip Hammer
Home: Ce 3-0955

Vice Chairman: Rev. Allison Williams
Church Office: Ce 7-6491

Vice Chairman: Mrs. William S. Shelfer
Dr 3-0765

Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. Hamilton Lokey
Ce 7-4215

Executive Director: Mrs. J. C. Harris
50 Whitehall St. — Ja 5-8469

Public Information Chairman:
Mrs. David Neiman — Ce 7-0209

SOUTHERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

Executive Director: Dr. Leslie W. Dunbar
5 Forsyth St., N.W. — 522-8764

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Superintendent: Dr. Claude Purcell
State Office Building — 688-2390

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN OF ATLANTA

President: Mrs. Phil B. Narmore
872-5862

RALPH

MCGILL

Atlanta has sought in all things to be a responsible city. This is her great tradition. As early as December 1889, Henry W. Grady, whose name



is on our modern and beautiful city hospital, on one of our finest schools, on one of our hotels, and whose statue stands in the heart of our city, said, in a speech made to the Merchants of Boston:

“The problem of race . . . is so bound up in our honorable obligation to the world that we would not disentangle it if we could

. . . I would rather see my people render back this question rightly solved than to see them gather all the spoils over which faction has contended since Cataline conspired and Caesar fought.”

This was Grady’s basic approach. His opinions, dealing with the context of his time, do not all jibe with today’s. But, he was right in the great sense . . . it must be rightly solved.

This is the city which welcomed back General Sherman, not many years after the war, and gave him a tremendous reception, including a dinner attended by Confederate veterans who directly had opposed him—and who had been driven from the city which he proceeded, in time, to burn.

This is the city which has always tried to look forward, not backward. It has never wanted to be an old Southern city, caught like a fly in amber, and dying of quaintness and musty charm. From the time the sound of hammers and the rasp of saws began to be heard in the rebuilding of the city after Sherman’s fires had died, we have sought to build into the city a belief in the principles of this country, of justice and opportunity. We have not always succeeded. The record is not unmarred. But we have never ceased to try.

One of our great strengths is that there have

been attracted here the graduates of the many institutions over the nation. Every year we are pleased to carry items about the local alumni of Wisconsin, of Minnesota, of California, of Princeton, Yale, Harvard, Smith, Radcliff, Vassar, et al, who are to have a luncheon or dinner and are calling on the faithful to attend. Atlanta has attracted, too, many of the more ambitious young men and women from the smaller cities and towns of our own state and others of the South. We are a city of transportation and communication, and this has brought to us young executive and professional men.

This press pack is an example. A great many persons, all volunteers, have worked on it. They want you to know that after the school decision by the U. S. Supreme Court, this was a city in which there was a debate and a continuing exchange of ideas. The White Citizens Councils, the Klans, and others of that mentality, could, and did, have their say. But they were answered. They did not dominate. They could not coerce or intimidate, as they did in neighboring states.

The men and women who have compiled this press pack represent volunteer citizen organizations which have worked for public schools—and for the orderly processes of law. We, of the press, radio and television, have helped them have their say. We commend them to you.

One never knows. The forces of evil and violence are unpredictable. But we believe that the overwhelming sentiment in this city is for lawful procedures. What we chiefly want you to know is that we have not been idle. We have not sat with folded hands and waited. We have not left it for others to do. The people of the city have tried to organize public opinion, and, more important, to inform it. This press pack contains the essence of that effort.

RALPH MCGILL

Publisher, *The Atlanta Constitution*



CITY OF ATLANTA

OFFICE of the MAYOR

Atlanta 3, Georgia

To the Gentlemen of the Press:

On behalf of the City of Atlanta, it is my pleasure to extend you a cordial welcome.

You have traveled far in order to be present as history is once again made in Atlanta. Knowing Atlanta and her people, I have every confidence that the story you flash to the world will be a positive, dramatic picture of a great City facing profound change with dignity; a City continuing to be a credit to the Nation; a City too busy to hate.

May your stay with us be both enjoyable and rewarding. And when you go, may you take with you in your mind a memory of the South at its best, and in your heart, a desire to return. We are always glad to have you with us.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor



CITY OF ATLANTA

DEPARTMENT of POLICE

Atlanta 3, Georgia

STATEMENT OF HERBERT T. JENKINS, CHIEF OF THE ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

“The Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools has original and complete jurisdiction to operate the public schools of Atlanta. In accordance with state and Federal regulations and under order from the Federal Court, the Atlanta schools will be desegregated when school opens on August 30, 1961.

“If any person or persons object to the manner or method of operation of the Atlanta Public Schools, those objections must be made to the Superintendent of School’s office at the City Hall, and under no circumstances will objections be discussed, or disturbances be permitted at any of the individual schools.

“Local and State laws have always surrounded and provided special protection for public worship and public schools. Section 36.14 of the City Code forbids disturbing public schools and states that ‘no person, at or near any public school, shall, by conversation, sign, or otherwise, engage the attention of any of the pupils, to the disturbance of such school.’

“The highest value of the law is the keeping of the peace—the Atlanta Police Department has full responsibility and authority to maintain the peace and good order over the entire city, and especially at and around the schools.”

August 1, 1961



BACKGROUND: ATLANTA (1954-1961)

When the Supreme Court Decision of May 1954 put an end to legal segregation in the nation's schools, Georgia, like other deep South states, adopted an official policy of last-ditch legal resistance. Despite protests from the Georgia Education Association, the League of Women Voters and other responsible citizens' groups, the General Assembly of 1955 adopted a "Private School Plan" which included, among other measures, a provision to cut off funds from any school system which attempted to desegregate.

Secure in their legal "Maginot Line" and unhampered by fear of Federal initiative in enforcing the ruling in "Brown vs. Topeka," most Georgians felt the Supreme Court's emphasis was on the word "deliberate" rather than "speed." Schools would continue in the traditional way; regional mores would remain unchanged. The bitter lessons of Little Rock and Norfolk were as yet unlearned. The changes in Baltimore, St. Louis and Louisville were not deep-South enough to stir Georgians from the blanket of apathy which then covered the entire school question.

The first brush with reality came in January 1958, when a group of Atlanta Negroes, in a "class action," filed suit against the Atlanta School Board. The suit (Calhoun et al vs. Latimer) asked that the School Board be enjoined from practicing racial discrimination in the public schools. When in June of 1959 U. S. District Judge Frank Hooper ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and ordered the Atlanta Board to submit a plan for desegregation by the following December, the handwriting was clearly on the wall. The

School Board had no alternative but to submit a plan. Yet any plan to desegregate Atlanta's schools would be squarely in conflict with Georgia's massive resistance laws and would automatically force their closure.

Meanwhile, in October of 1958, echoes from Norfolk and Little Rock began to reverberate along the Peachtrees. Anxious letters were written to the newspapers. Isolated groups of citizens held meetings. In November, the School Committee of the Atlanta League of Women Voters publicly submitted ten questions to the School Board, the most important of which was, "Will every school in Atlanta close if the Courts order integration?" The School Board withheld a public answer since they were litigants in the pending Court suit; but an Atlanta Constitution columnist outlined the city's dilemma. On November 25th, under the auspices of the League of Women Voters, an open meeting was called to discuss ways and means of keeping schools open. A steering committee was formed to seek cooperation with the business and financial leadership of Atlanta. Since it was felt that a public stand at that time would be undesirable and premature, the steering committee never got off the ground.

The disengagement of the local power structure, the unyielding "never" of the State political leadership and the strident, often threatening segregationist voices claiming that "no schools are better than integrated ones" were powerful deterrents to organized community action. Yet because the Atlanta papers responsibly reported the news from other Southern cities, pointing out editorially the tragic consequences of massive resistance elsewhere, many Atlantans realized their public schools were in jeopardy and sought a way to save them.

On December 9, 1958, eighteen white parents chartered HOPE, Inc. (Help Our Public Education), choosing to avoid the integration vs. segregation issue by taking an uncomplicated stand

for open public schools, period. Conceived primarily as an educational organization designed to clear up the fog of confusion engendered by "massive resistance," "interposition" and other so-called alternatives to compliance, it rapidly became a rallying ground for moderates who previously had suffered to remain silent. With the fervor and enthusiasm only amateurs could maintain, HOPE spawned a welter of public manifestos (Ministers, Educators and Doctors, to name just a few) and generated enough interest by March of 1959 to hold a public rally which drew upwards of 1,500 people and some prominent speakers in support of open schools (Atlanta Mayor Hartsfield, Publisher Ralph McGill, Georgia Legislator M. M. (Muggsy) Smith and Editor Sylvan Meyer). Favorable press, radio and television coverage of the March rally established a bona-fide "Open Schools Movement." HOPE chapters formed in Gainesville, Marietta, Jonesboro, Rome, Athens, Macon and Savannah with other nuclei of interested supporters in cities and towns throughout the state.

Inevitably there was opposition, much of it well-financed and organized. In addition to the States Rights Council led by Augusta politico, Roy Harris, the Klans and White Citizens Councils, Atlanta-based centers of resistance such as MASE (Metropolitan Association for Segregated Education) and later GUTS (Georgians Unwilling to Surrender) headed by Lester Maddox, now a candidate in the five-cornered Atlanta mayoralty race, sprang up to harass open school advocates.

On November 30, 1959 the Atlanta School Board submitted a stair-step plan for desegregation of the public schools beginning with the 12th grade (given in full elsewhere in this pamphlet). Judge Hooper approved the plan on January 20, 1960 and ordered it into effect the following September; or as soon as the General Assembly of Georgia could enact statutes to allow Atlanta schools to operate.

In an attempt to influence legislative action, open school supporters mounted an educational crash program. Mayor Hartsfield proclaimed a "Save Our Schools Week" in Atlanta. Representatives of state-wide civic groups joined together in a coordinated effort. Legislators, business leaders and other opinion-makers throughout the state received repeated mailings underlining the social, economic and educational disasters accompanying school closings elsewhere. The Fulton and DeKalb County legislative delegations which previously had withheld unanimous support, promised to seek legislative change. They were joined by a handful of solons from other parts of the state; but the prevailing sentiment when the General Assembly convened was to let Atlanta bear the brunt of school closings to preserve segregation elsewhere in Georgia.

All during the legislative session public pressure in behalf of open schools grew stronger. Delegations of open school supporters called on Governor Vandiver, Senator Russell, Senator Talmadge and as many legislators as they could buttonhole. As a result, the Legislature appointed a nineteen-member "General Assembly Committee on Schools" empowered to conduct hearings in each of the State's Congressional Districts to find out whether "the people of Georgia may wish to make a deliberate determination as to whether future education is to be afforded through direct tuition payments for use in private schools devoid of governmental control, or whether the public school system as it presently exists shall be maintained notwithstanding that the school system of Atlanta and even others yet to come may be integrated . . . "

Cynics regarded the Committee as a delaying tactic at best. It had power only to inquire and recommend and it was a foregone conclusion that most Georgians considered "race-mixing" far more disastrous than the abandonment of public education. Yet the strong grass-roots support for

open schools in nearly every part of the State was a surprise to almost everyone.

The Committee had the good fortune to be chaired by widely-respected John Sibley, Chairman of the Board of the Trust Company of Georgia. Mr. Sibley conducted the hearings with good-humored dignity and impartiality. The importance of the "Sibley Commission" in awakening Georgians to the alternatives they faced cannot be overestimated. When the Committee issued its report in April 1960, the 11-member majority recommended a Freedom of Choice plan, somewhat similar to Virginia's. The 8-member minority stood fast for segregation, even at the cost of closed schools. The division within the Committee itself reflected the sharp differences of opinion in the state. Yet for the first time in the deep South, the *majority* of an all-Georgia committee appointed by the State Legislature with the blessings of the State Administration recommended that existing laws be changed to allow some desegregation . . . *before a Negro child actually applied to enter a white public school.*

After the publication of "The Sibley Report," Judge Hooper stayed integration of Atlanta schools for a year. On May 9, 1960, he amended the Atlanta Plan to include desegregation of the 11th and 12th grades at the beginning of the 1961 school year. The Atlanta Plan was to become effective "whether or not the General Assembly of Georgia at its session in January 1961 passes permissive legislation." In Judge Hooper's words, "to order the Atlanta Public Schools to integrate . . . in September 1960 could mean but one thing; that is, the closing of Atlanta's schools. To postpone this . . . will give the Georgia Legislature . . . one last chance to prevent this closing."

Immediately following this final Court decision, HOPE called a "Georgia Open Schools Conference" attended by 500 delegates invited from some 87 Georgia cities, towns or counties. Edward

R. Murrow televised this Conference in a nationwide documentary "Who Speaks for the South." As it became more acceptable to speak out openly for legislative change, many came forward with strong public statements. As a Gainesville editor put it, "You can hear minds changing all over Georgia."

In the Fall of 1960, open school advocates initiated "Operation Last Chance," taking their cue from Judge Hooper's words. Armed with forthright statements from Churches (all faiths and every important denomination, including the influential Georgia Baptist Convention); business leaders (the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Jaycees and key individuals throughout the State); lawyers (the Atlanta and Georgia Bar Associations); educators (the Georgia Education Association, "Mr. Jim" Peters, venerable Chairman of the State Board of Education); and many others, the issue was kept constantly before the public. "Days of Decision" Forums were held in Athens, Rome, Albany, Columbus, Augusta and Savannah to plead the case for legislative change. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce conducted its own Legislative Forums, with Administration floor-leaders Frank Twitty and Carl Sanders finding a preponderance of open-school sentiment and reflecting this in their public statements. All this was played against the backdrop of New Orleans which remained in the headlines throughout the Fall.

Coincident with the opening of the 1961 Legislative Session was the now-famous "Athen's crisis." When two Negroes were ordered admitted to the University of Georgia by U. S. District Judge William A. Bootle, Governor Vandiver and the Legislature were provided a chaotic example of what "bitter-end" resistance meant. Existing statutes would force closing Georgia's beloved University (the nation's oldest state-supported institution of higher learning) and this was too bitter a pill for even the strongest segregationists. On

January 18, 1961, S. Ernest Vandiver, who had been elected Governor of Georgia only two years prior on a platform which said he would never permit desegregation, underwent a dramatic reversal. In order to save the schools of Georgia, he offered a "Child Protection Plan," through which a community can decide by local school board action or a referendum whether it wants to close its schools when it faces a court order to desegregate. If a community decides for open schools, tuition grants provide money for children not wishing to attend integrated schools. The Legislature promptly repealed the mandatory closing laws and adopted the Governor's four-bill package.

The open schools advocates had won their battle. Atlanta was now free to comply with its Court order, with no threat of school closings. Applications for transfer to the 11th and 12th grades were submitted by 133 Negro children between May 1st and May 15th. After an exhaustive series of tests and interviews (required by the Atlanta Plan) ten were chosen to enter four previously all-white high schools (Brown, Grady, Murphy and Northside). 38 others are still in the process of appealing the Board's decision to reject their applications. One white child, Sandra Melkild, now attending Northside High School, has requested transfer to another presently all-white school, basing her request on "freedom of association." The Atlanta School Board has denied her a transfer. On August 9th the State School Board overruled the Atlanta Board's decision; but Judge Hooper has ordered a stay of the State Board of Education's ruling, pending a hearing.

Once the conflict between State and Federal laws was resolved, emphasis shifted to desegregation with dignity. The organizations comprising the "Open Schools Movement" sent representatives to call on Dr. John Letson, Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools, early last February to ask what citizens might do to help create a climate

of calm, dignified compliance with the law. It was suggested that church, business, service and youth groups outside the immediate jurisdiction of the school administration be encouraged to play a leading role in this effort through public discussion and dissemination of information. A new group, in fact an Organization of organizations, was formed with a broad base of community support. Its name: OASIS (Organizations Assisting Schools in September) an acronym Atlantans feel is descriptive of their city.

OASIS, with its 53 affiliates, is divided into three sections—Religious, Civic and Service Groups and Youth-serving Agencies. Members range from service clubs and Girl Scouts to labor unions and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Its activity has been low-key but intensive, seeking to work through already existing organizational machinery to reach hundreds of thousands of Atlanta's citizens.

OASIS has stimulated hundreds of meetings throughout the long, hot Atlanta summer. 126 volunteer discussion leaders have been on call to assist at gatherings varying from 200 in the Southwest Community Council to half-a-dozen anxious parents meeting in a neighbor's living room. A Speaker's Bureau, headed by an ex-president of The Toastmasters, provides information for business and service groups. A troupe of Theater Atlanta Players has presented improvised desegregation skits for teenagers at camps and youth centers all over town. OASIS has brought over one hundred white and Negro youth leaders together and encouraged Atlanta's more prominent citizens to speak out in behalf of responsible compliance.

OASIS' Religious Section spearheaded the observance of "Law and Order Weekend (Friday, August 25th through Sunday, August 27th) during which Atlanta's profusion of churches and synagogues conducted special prayers for peaceful transition. Ministers were asked to take their

vacations before August 15th so that they would be on hand to give moral leadership. All faiths have participated in this effort, with leading clergy and lay representatives playing active roles as catalysts.

All of these efforts have received considerable support from Atlanta's newspapers, television and radio stations. Mayor William B. Hartsfield's repeated assertions that Atlanta will preserve its reputation for good race relations have been followed by public and private measures designed to prevent trouble. Police Chief Herbert T. Jenkins has had officers from his department observing racial disturbances in other cities for two and one-half years. The Chief has publicly proclaimed that law and order will be maintained and warned would-be violators of penalties. School Superintendent, Dr. John Letson, has told Atlantans that anything less than desegregation with peace and dignity will "exact a price that will not be paid in full for a generation."

And when school opens on August 30th, this city hopes to demonstrate that careful planning and intelligent preparation can prevent the violence that has accompanied school integration nearly everywhere else in the deep South.

AN EDITORIAL P.S.

WE HOPE YOU WILL READ

In writing the foregoing piece, we have tried to give you "just the facts." Now let us tell you what's in our hearts. We had a double purpose in preparing this kit. If our schools desegregate smoothly and without incident—and the overwhelming majority of Atlantans are praying that they will—we wanted you to know why. If a rock is thrown or a demonstration staged, you ought to know that is not the whole story of our city.

Ask any of our local newsmen to tell you about the "Open Schools Movement." They'll say we're

a bunch of starry-eyed amateurs—a strictly grass-roots-type operation held together chiefly with scotch tape and imagination. But they'll also tell you that we *held together*—through three interminable uphill years to accomplish what those who thought they knew all about Georgia said never would happen in our generation.

Who took part in the "Open Schools Movement?" The ordinary people who live in Atlanta—and believe it or not, much of Georgia. The printer who donated pamphlets and hand-bills on a "pay if you get it" basis. The businessmen who gave an office and typewriter, stationery, erasers and all that scotch tape. The lawyers who volunteered their time and brainpower to unsnarl the tangled legal thickets. But most of all, the women of Atlanta who licked the stamps, organized the meetings and stayed on the telephone until they finished the job. Yes, the unsung heroines of the "Open Schools Movement" are mostly ordinary housewives and mothers who left beds unmade and meals uncooked to insure their children's educational future.

Is it over yet? Not by a long shot. There are those with whom old ways die hard. We have heard the nation's most militant racists are marshaling their forces to make a stand at this "Second Battle of Atlanta." You must have heard it too—or most of you wouldn't be here.

When the "symbolic ten" go to their classrooms, segregation in Georgia's common schools will be officially over. There are those who wish the ten could be a thousand. There are many who object to even one. But whatever the views that divide them, Atlantans are united in a single hope: that the story that unfolds on August 30th will be much different from the one you might have expected. And when ten Negro children go to school on Wednesday, the heart of Atlanta will go in with them.

MRS. DAVID NEIMAN
Public Information Chairman
OASIS
(Organizations Assisting
Schools in September)

Atlanta Public Schools

CITY HALL

ATLANTA 3, GEORGIA

To Representatives of the Press, Radio
and Television:

Citizens of Atlanta have long recognized that good schools are an essential part of a great city. Recent developments have demonstrated a determination on the part of all concerned to assess realistically the problems we face and to proceed with the educational tasks ahead. Teachers and others who are a part of the Atlanta public school system face the future with confidence and with the firm conviction that changes and adaptations will be made as circumstances require. I am certain that I speak for all school personnel in saying that we are happy to be a part of a great city that we are convinced will become still greater in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John W. Letson". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

John W. Letson
Superintendent

JWL/frk



ATLANTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1301 COMMERCE BUILDING / P. O. BOX 1740 / ATLANTA 1, GEORGIA / 52 1-0845

Dear Visitor:

Atlanta is on trial. But so are the mass communications media of this nation. How well we both conduct ourselves will have a great and lasting effect on this city.

We, the business leaders of this city, have never faltered in our solid support of our officials in their determination to obey the law. We do not intend to let lawlessness impede this mature city's quest for greatness.

We are going to continue to do everything possible here in Atlanta to play our rightful role among American cities. We like to think of ourselves as responsible citizens.

We know we, in turn, can look to each of you—our visitors—for the same high degree of responsible journalism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Opie L. Shelton'.

Opie L. Shelton
Executive Vice President

The Atlanta Plan, Amended January 18, 1960, Provides:

"Whereas, The State Board of Education has not promulgated rules and regulations relative to the placement of students in the schools, and this Board has the inherent power of pupil placement, and more complete regulations are necessary.

"Now therefore: To insure orderly procedures of uniform application for pupil assignment, transfer, and/or placement, and to enable the continuing improvement of the educational advantages offered the following rules and procedure shall be followed:

"(1). In the assignment, transfer or continuance of pupils . . . the following factors and the effects or results thereof shall be considered, with respect to the individual pupil, as well as other relevant matters:

"available room and teaching capacity in the various schools;

"the availability of transportation facilities;

"the effect of the admission of new pupils upon established or proposed academic programs;

"the suitability of established curricula for particular pupils;

"the adequacy of the pupil's academic preparation for admission to a particular school and curriculum;

"the scholastic aptitude and relative intelligence or mental energy or ability of the pupil;

"the psychological qualification of the pupil for the type of teaching and associations involved;

"the possibility or threat of friction or disorder among pupils or others;

"the possibility of breaches of the peace or ill will;

"the effect of admission of the pupil upon the academic progress of other students in a particular school or facility thereof;

"the effect of admission upon prevailing academic standards at a particular school;

"the psychological effect upon the pupil of attendance at a particular school;

"the home environment of the pupil;

"the maintenance or severance of established social and psychological relationships with other pupils and with teachers;

"the choice and interests of the pupil;

"the ability to accept or conform to new and different educational environment;

"the morals, conduct, health and personal standards of the pupil;

"the request or consent of parents or guardians and the reasons assigned therefor."

(2). The City Superintendent of Schools will administer these provisions, subject to the supervision of the Board.

(3). The Superintendent will designate the school to which each child applying for assignment or transfer shall go. "All existing school assignments shall continue without change until or unless transfers are directed or approved by the Superintendent or his duly authorized representative."

(4). Applications for admission, assignment, or transfer and/or placement shall be directed to the Superintendent and delivered to the school principal between May 1st and May 15th.

(5). A separate application must be filed for each child.

(6). Application forms must be filled out and signed by parents or guardians and notarized. The Superintendent may require interviews, tests, and investigation.

(7). Notice of action taken shall be mailed to parents or guardians within thirty days or not later than June 15th and will be final action "unless a hearing before the Board is requested in writing within ten days from the date of mailing such statement."

(8). Parents may file in writing objections to assignment or request transfer to "a designated school or to another school." The Board shall act on same within a reasonable time. A hearing will be begun within twenty days of decision by the Board that a hearing is necessary.

(9). Hearings on requests for transfers shall be conducted by the Board or not less than three of the members of the Board, and decisions "of the members or a majority thereof shall be deemed a final decision by the Board."

(10). Unless postponement is requested by the parents or guardian, the Board will notify them of its decision within ten days after conclusion of the hearings. Every appeal shall be finally conducted by the Board before September 1st. Any person dissatisfied with the final decision of the Board may appeal to the State Board of Education.

(11). The Board may assign certain pupils to vocational or other special schools or terminate their public school enrollment altogether.

(12). "Beginning September 1, 1960, or on September 1, following favorable action by the General Assembly of Georgia, student assignment in the Atlanta Public School System shall be made in accordance with aforesaid rules and regulations and without regard to race or color. For the first school year in which it is effective, the plan shall apply to the students in the 12th grade. Thereafter, in each successive year, the plan shall be expanded to the immediate lower grade; e.g. in 1961-62 grade 11th, in 1962-63 grade 10th, etc., until all grades are included."*

(13). "Nothing contained in this resolution shall prevent the separation of boys and girls in any school or grade or to prevent the assignment of boys and girls to separate schools."

(14). These rules shall be contingent upon the enactment of statutes by the General Assembly of Georgia and shall be submitted to the General Assembly for approval.

* On May 9, 1960 U. S. District Judge Hooper ruled that the Plan of the Atlanta Board of Education for gradual desegregation be put into operation on May 1, 1961. Applications to the twelfth and eleventh grades of the Atlanta Public Schools were received from May 1 to 15.

The Atlanta Public Schools:

Some Facts and Figures

Prepared by the Atlanta Department of Education

THE FOUR SCHOOLS TO BE DESEGREGATED

Brown High School, named for Joseph E. Brown, Civil War governor of Georgia, is located at 765 Peebles Street, S.W. West End, as the section is popularly known, is an old and established part of the city where the population now comprises low to middle income families, although many longtime residents still retain and live in their fine old homes. It is a section of strong loyalties and considerable pride of accomplishment. The principal of the school, Maxwell Ivey, formerly principal of Hutchinson Elementary School and former Director of Athletics and coach of champion football teams, is serving his first year as a high school principal at Brown. The school may be reached from City Hall by driving west on Whitehall, thence to Gordon, left on Peebles for three blocks. There are about 1200 students and 50 teachers in the school. In 1961 there were 131 graduates with approximately 45% attending college. Both students and teachers are very loyal to the school and its fine tradition of good conduct and high ideals.

Murphy High School was opened in 1930. Its present principal is George M. McCord whose tenure as principal began in 1942. Mr. McCord is well known in national camping circles, is very active in YMCA, and other youth serving organizations. The address of the school is 256 Clifton Street, S.E., adjacent to Memorial Drive. The school may be reached by going east on Memorial Drive for approximately 3 miles. There are approximately 1200 students and 50 teachers in the school. Of the 205 graduating this year, about 50% continued in college. The community is a section of moderate priced homes, law abiding citizens, and church-going population. The school is particularly noted for a balanced program of meeting student needs and interests.

Henry Grady High School was created in 1947 from old Boy's High School and old Tech High School which was once situated in the same building and on the same grounds. Named for Henry W. Grady, famous orator and newspaperman, the school has taken great pride in its preparation of students for college. Located at 929 Charles Allen Drive, N.E., (formerly Parkway Drive) the school is relatively close to the downtown section but is also accessible to very fine residential areas of the city. The school population ranges from families of lower middle in-

comes to relatively high incomes, with considerable diversity in religious and ethnic composition. It may be reached by way of Peachtree, Ponce de Leon and Charles Allen Drive; or by Peachtree and 10th Street. The principal is Roger H. Derthick (incidentally, brother of Lawrence Derthick, former U. S. Commissioner of Education) who is president of the Atlanta Teachers Association. The school has an enrollment of about 1500 students and there are 60 or more teachers. Approximately 80% of the students continue their education in college.

Northside High School, whose address is 2875 Northside Drive, N.W., is located in an upper income section of the city. Mr. W. H. Kelley has been principal of the school since its inception in 1950. The school is in that portion of the city annexed in 1952. Former coach and English teacher, he presides over the school with humor and dignity. The school has an enrollment of approximately 1100 and there are about 45 teachers. More than 88% of the 242 graduates this year will continue in college. The school has maintained strong lead in football championships in recent years and is one where students indicate a strong school spirit. The school may be reached by going north on the Expressway to Northside Drive, or by going Peachtree Road to West Wesley, turn left to Northside, then right one block.

Historical Facts About Atlanta School System

Established in 1872 with an enrollment of 3293 elementary pupils and 301 high school students. Inauguration of 6-3-3 organization in 1923 with 8 junior and 4 senior high schools. Enrollment 53,491 students in all schools. Establishment of community, co-educational comprehensive high schools in 1947. Total enrollment 60,761. Annexation of 39 schools and approximately 20,000 new students in 1952. Decentralization of administration and Area organization 1956. More than 42 millions expended for new school buildings since 1946.

Board of Education

President, L. J. O'Callaghan; Oby T. Brewer, Jr.; Dr. Rufus E. Clement; Ed S. Cook; Glenn Frick; Elmo Holt; Harold F. Jackson; Mrs. Clifford N. Ragsdale; Fred M. Shell.

Administration

Superintendent, Dr. John W. Letson; Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Rual W. Stephens; Assistant Superintendents, Jarvis Barnes, J. Everette DeVaughn; Area Superintendents, Dr. H. A. Bowen, Dr. Ed S. Cook, Jr., D. W. Heidecker, Warren T. Jackson, Dr. G. Y. Smith; Comptroller, E. R. Holley.

Directors and Supervisory Staff

Directors 18; Co-ordinators and Supervisors 7; resource personnel 31.

Area Organization

Decentralization of administration and instructional supervision by subdividing to 5 geographical school areas under Area Superintendents and supervisory staffs.

Schools

Structural organization: Elementary, kindergarten through 7; high schools, grades 7-12; 2 vocational schools; 2 evening high schools; 2 evening vocational schools; 5 special schools.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>A.D.A.</u>	<u>No. of Teachers</u>
Elementary . . .	119	75,302	63,562	2,265
High Schools . . .	26	29,456	24,640	1,220
TOTALS . . .	145	104,758	88,202	3,485

High Schools

Minimum requirements for diploma (beyond 8th grade): English 4 units, social studies 3 units, math 2 units, science 2 units, "activities" 2 units, electives 5 units. College preparatory and distinctive diploma curricula available in all high schools.

<u>Name</u>	<u>No of Teachers</u>	<u>A.D.A.</u>	<u>No. of Graduates</u>	<u>% Attending College</u>
Archer	50	988	120	23%
Bass	36	665	112	45%
Brown	51	1087	131	45%
Dykes	25	516
East Atlanta	27	547	80
Fulton	41	924	177	20%
George	30	552	64
Grady	60	1356	256	80%
Howard	81	1784	243	29%
Murphy	49	1030	205	48%
North Fulton	53	1091	239	85%
Northside	44	981	242	88%
O'Keefe	42	786	87	23%
Price	78	1614	200	29%
Roosevelt	43	840	107	25%
Smith	36	532	98	18%
Southwest	53	1147	234	47%
Sylvan	46	1021	179	41%
Therrell	29	585
Turner	69	1623	201	45%
Washington	106	2243	324	68%
West Fulton	52	1072	148	21%

Finances

Operating budget, 30 millions. Sources of income: local taxes 55.1%; state taxes 28.2%; other sources 2.5%; cash balance 14.2%. Allocation: administration 2.1%; instruction 71.9%; maintenance 4.7%; operation 7.0%; operating balance 5.6%; others 8.7%.

Teacher Salaries

(Annual salary in 12 monthly payments)

<u>Certification</u>	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Years to Reach Maximum</u>
B.A.	\$4308	\$6540	19
M.A.	4500	7164	22
6 year College	4920	7896	24
Doctorate	5520	8688	25

Buildings and Grounds

<u>Category</u>	<u>No. Units</u>	<u>No. Acres</u>	<u>No. Classrooms</u>	<u>Value</u>
Elementary	130	535.5	2194	\$41,985,331
High School	45	343.1	1186	30,692,011
TOTALS	175	878.6	3380	72,677,324

Libraries

<u>Categories</u>	<u>No. of Books</u>	<u>Circulation</u>
Elementary	280,211	1,312,974
High School	208,413	306,972
TOTALS	488,624	1,619,946

Cafeterias

<u>Categories</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>No. Lunches Served</u>	<u>No. ½ pts. Milk Served</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Elementary	113	5,416,697	8,813,776	\$1,806,116	\$1,820,732
High Schools	24	1,666,919	2,445,015	921,274	920,331
TOTALS	137	7,083,616	11,258,791	2,727,390	2,741,063

Special Education

<u>Categories</u>	<u>Mentally Retarded</u>	<u>Speech and Hearing</u>	<u>Sight Saving</u>	<u>Emotionally Disturbed</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Elementary	60	20	17	4	11	112
High Schools	11	2	3	0	2	18
TOTALS	71	22	20	4	13	130

Radio and Television Education

Radio and television stations owned by Board of Education. Over 500 radio and TV sets in the schools; over 60,000 students viewing and hearing 89 radio and 58 TV programs per week in 139 schools. TV instruction in Health, General Science, General Biology, World History, Physics, Social Studies, Mathematics, French and Spanish.

Health and Physical Fitness

Required of all elementary pupils and 8th and 9th grade students. Interscholastic athletic program in 23 high schools comprises 17 teams in each high school in 10 different activities under 115 teacher-coaches. Participation, exclusive of bands and pep squads, by 5,000 students in 113 home games viewed by 200,000 spectators.

Audio-Visual Education

Established in 1921, one of the oldest educational audio-visual departments in the nation; school system has 5,000 pieces of A-V equipment and 10,000 A-V items; 2,000 presentations in classrooms; planetarium for space science instruction; primate house with full-time instructor.

Future Plans and Needs

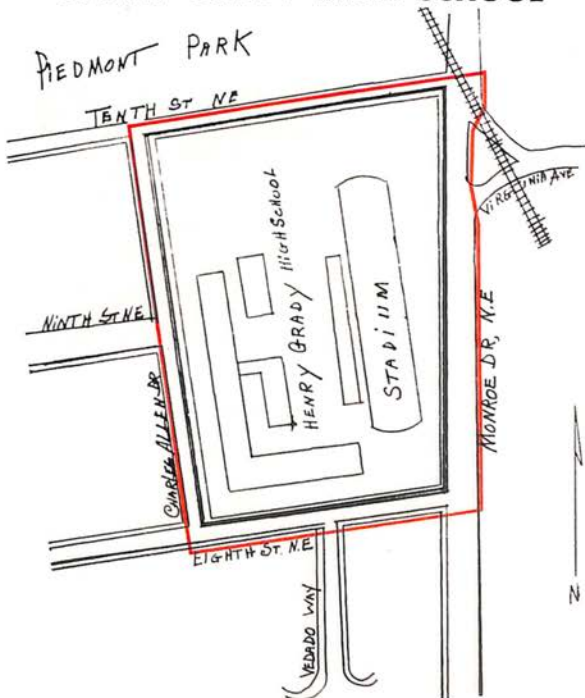
Three new high schools; 400 additional elementary classrooms; warehouse and school services building; administration building; curriculum development, supervisory, and materials center; automated data processing equipment and staffing; expansion of curricular and instructional leadership program.

MAPS of high school grounds by Atlanta Police Dept.

BROWN HIGH SCHOOL



HENRY GRADY HIGH SCHOOL

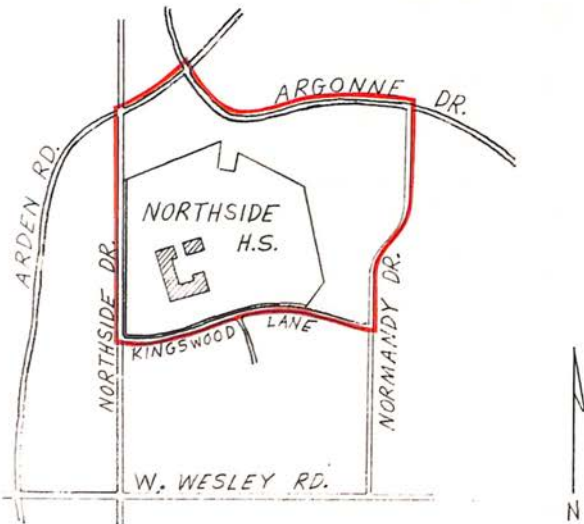


Red line marks curb across adjacent streets. This line encloses area off-limits to public and press.

MURPHY HIGH SCHOOL



NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL



Information About the Transfer Students

All of the ten transfer students, in the words of Deputy School Superintendent Rual Stephens, "have outstanding school academic records, made excellent scores on the tests given them and very favorable impressions" when they were interviewed by school officials. Some of the 10 were accepted in spite of the fact that their residences are nearer their present schools than the schools they asked to attend. School officials said that in such instances there were factors of "overriding importance" which figured in the decisions to accept the students.

In one case, a youth aspired to go to the Naval Academy at Annapolis and was unable to get the ROTC training or special college preparatory courses in mathematics and physics at his present school.

School officials made it clear from the beginning that an important consideration in whether a Negro student was accepted or rejected would be his chances of doing well in a new school environment. Those finally accepted had composite test scores which in most instances exceeded the median composite scores of the grades and schools to which they are being transferred.

Allen, Demaris—16 years old. Accepted for the 12th Grade, Brown High School. Composite test score: 94.6. Median in 12th Grade at Brown: 66.4. Asked for transfer in order to receive special training in social studies, science and mathematics. Special interest: Archaeology. Previous extra-curricular activities: Dramatic and Dance Clubs, Junior Red Cross, Honor Society.

Black, Willie Jean—15 years old. Accepted for 11th Grade, Northside High School. Composite test score: 93.8. Median in 11th Grade at Northside: 82.8. Asked for transfer because of superior curriculum offered in science and mathematics. Special interest: Medical career. Previous extra-curricular activities: Laboratory assistant, Honor Society, Science program at Morris Brown College.

Gaines, Donita—16 years old. Accepted for 11th Grade, Northside High School. Composite test score: 92. Median in 11th Grade at Northside: 82.8. Asked for transfer because of superior curriculum. Special interest: Engineering. Previous extra-curricular activities: Honor Society, Library Assistant, Student Government, Y-Teens.

Holmes, Martha Ann—17 years old. Accepted for 12th Grade, Murphy High School. Composite test score: 72.2. Median in 12th Grade at Murphy: 65.6. Asked for transfer because of crowded conditions at Howard High School. Special interests: Chemistry and mathematics. Previous extra-curricular activities: Band, Business-office assistant, English Club, Honor Society, Student Government.

Jefferson, Lawrence—17 years old. Accepted for 12th Grade, Grady High School. Composite test score: 85.8. Median in 12th Grade at Grady: 79. Asked for transfer because of overcrowding at Howard High School. Special interests: Mathematics and English. Previous extra-curricular activities: Honor Society, Student Government, City-wide Student Council.

McMullen, Mary James—16 years old. Accepted for 12th Grade, Grady High School. Composite test score: 69.6. Median in 12th Grade at Grady: 79. Asked for transfer because of overcrowding at Howard High School. Special interests: Social Science teaching. Previous extra-curricular activities: Basketball, Choir, Cheerleading.

Nix, Madelyn—15 years old. Accepted for 11th Grade, Brown High School. Composite test score: 83.6. Median in 11th Grade at Brown: 65.8. Asked for transfer because of superior curriculum in mathematics and physics. Special interest: Medical career. Previous extra-curricular activities: Honor Society, Orchestra, Student Government.

Simmons, Arthur C.—16 years old. Accepted for 12th Grade, Northside High School. Composite test score: 84.4. Median in 12th Grade at Northside: 84. Asked for transfer because of superior curriculum, particularly Mechanical Drawing. Special interest: Engineering. Previous extra-curricular activities: Honor Society.

Walton, Rosalyn—16 years old. Accepted for 11th Grade, Murphy High School. Composite test Score: 56.8. Median in 11th Grade Murphy: 67.8. Asked for transfer because of proximity to home. Special interest: Elementary school teaching. Previous extra-curricular activities: Choir, Honor Society.

Welch, Thomas E.—16 years old. Accepted for 11th Grade, Brown High School. Composite test score: 89.2. Median in 11th Grade at Brown: 65.8. Asked for transfer in order to take ROTC, unavailable at Washington High School. Special interest: Admission to Annapolis and future Naval Career. Previous extra-curricular activities: Chorus.

Sigma Delta Chi

Code of Ethics

- I. The primary function of newspapers is to communicate to the human race what its members do, feel and think. Journalism, therefore, demands of its practitioners the widest range of intelligence, of knowledge, and of experience, as well as natural and trained powers of observation and reasoning. To its opportunities as a chronicle are indissolvably linked its obligations as teacher and interpreter.
- II. To the end of finding some means of codifying sound practice in just aspirations of American Journalism these gains are set forth:
 1. **RESPONSIBILITY**

The right of a newspaper to attract and hold readers is restricted by nothing but consideration of public welfare. The use a newspaper makes of the share of public attention it gains, serves to determine its sense of responsibility which it shares with every member of its staff. A journalist who uses his power for any selfish or otherwise unworthy purpose is faithless to a high trust.
 2. **FREEDOM OF THE PRESS**

Freedom of the press is to be guarded as a vital right of mankind. It is the unquestionable right to discuss whatever is not explicitly forbidden by law, including the wisdom of any restrictive statute.
 3. **INDEPENDENCE**

Freedom from all obligations, except that of fidelity, to the public interest is vital.

 - A. Promotion of any private interest, contrary to the general welfare, for whatever reason, is not compatible with honest journalism. So-called news communications from private sources should not be published without public notice of their source or else substantiation of their claims to value as news, both in form and substance.
 - B. Partisanship, in editorial comment, which knowingly departs from the truth, does violence to the best spirit of journalism; in the news columns, it is subversive of a fundamental principle of the profession.
 4. **ALL SINCERITY, TRUST, ACCURACY.**

Good faith with the reader is the foundation of all journalism worthy of the name.

Youth-Serving Organizations Section:

Chairman, Mrs. John Steinhaus

Co-Chairman, Mrs. R. H. Brisbane

Atlanta Boys Clubs

Atlanta Girls Clubs

Atlanta Jewish Community Center

Bethlehem Community Center

B'nai B'rith Youth Organization

Girl Scouts

Grady Homes Community Girls Club

Interdenominational Youth Center

Religious Education Association

Salvation Army

Temple Youth Group

Wesley Community House

YMCA

YWCA

Religious Organizations Section:

Co-Chairmen: Reverend Nat Long

Reverend Norman Shands

Atlanta Chapter, American Jewish Committee

Diöcesan Council of Catholic Women

Georgia Council of Churches

Greater Atlanta Council of Churches

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

United Church Women of Atlanta and Georgia

Churches of every faith:

Catholic, Eastern and Greek Orthodox, Jewish and Protestant; and every denomination within each faith:

Jewish: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform.

Protestant: Alliance, Assembly of God, Baptist, Christian Science, Church of Christ, Church of God, Congregational, Episcopal, Friends, Holiness, Latter Day Saints, Lutheran, Methodist, Nazarene, Primitive Baptist, Presbyterian, Salvation Army, Seventh Day Adventists, United Liberal, Unity.

