

MINUTES

LOCAL EDUCATION COMMISSION MEETING

September 22, 1966

The Local Education Commission met in the Conference Room of the Administration Building of the Atlanta Public Schools at 10:00 a.m., September 22, 1966, with the following in attendance:

Commission Members

Mr. P. L. Bardin
Mr. J. H. Cawthon
Dr. Rufus E. Clement
Mr. Ed S. Cook, Sr.
Mr. Alan Kiepper
Dr. John W. Letson
Mr. Thomas Miller
Mrs. Alan Ritter
Mr. W. L. Robinson

Mr. William M. Teem, III
Mr. Fred J. Turner
Dr. Paul D. West

Consultants and Staff

Dr. Truman Pierce
Mr. James Groton
Mr. A. C. Latimer
Dr. Curtis Henson

Minutes of the April 27, 1966 meeting were unanimously approved.

The Executive Committee recommended Mr. Marthame Sanders to fill the unexpired term of Mr. James White. Mr. J. H. Cawthon made the motion that Mr. Marthame Sanders be appointed to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fred Turner and passed unanimously.

A letter of resignation was read from Dr. James L. Miller, Jr. The motion made by Mr. Tom Miller that the resignation be accepted was seconded by Mr. W. L. Robinson and passed unanimously.

Dr. Pierce reported on the proposed plan of work entitled "Provisions for Creating an Atlanta-Fulton County School District". He stated that the section dealing with the legal work had been discussed in some detail with Mr. James Groton and that the steps as outlined seemed to be adequate at this time.

Following Dr. Pierce's presentation, Mr. Robinson made the motion that the report be received. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Robinson stated that the method of electing school board members for the new district should be clearly defined. He made the motion that the report state that board members are to be elected on a school district-wide basis by the qualified voters in a special, non-partisan election. The motion was seconded by Dr. Clement and passed unanimously.

Dr. Clement made the motion that the proposed new Board of Education consist of nine members - one member from each of nine subdivisions of approximately the same population - all elected by the total electorate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ed Cook, Sr. and passed unanimously.

Dr. Clement made the motion that the wording in the plan of work be changed to read, Board Members will be compensated at the rate of \$300

per month with the chairman being paid an additional \$50 per month. The motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson and passed unanimously.

It was suggested that the report contain the statement that any seat on the Board of Education vacated for any reason will be filled by appointment by the Board until the seat can be filled by a regular school board election which will be held every two years.

How the length of office for the initial Board will be determined was discussed. Mr. Robinson made the motion that a committee of five members be appointed to make a recommendation to the full Commission on how the length of term for each Board Member of the initial Board will be determined. Mr. Bardin, Dr. Pierce, and three other members appointed by Mr. Bardin are to serve on this Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Miller and passed unanimously.

Mr. Fred Turner made the motion that the plan of action as amended be adopted by the Commission. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Alan Ritter and passed unanimously.

Mr. Cawthon made the motion that Dr. Lyle Johns, University of Florida, be employed to make the necessary study in the area of finance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tom Miller and passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom Miller made the motion that Dr. Willard Elsbree, Emeritus Professor of Education, Teachers College, Columbia University be employed to conduct the necessary study in the area of personnel and that if he is not available, the Executive Committee have the authority to select a substitute. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fred Turner and passed unanimously.

In all cases, the rate of remuneration for each person who works for the Commission and the tasks to be accomplished will be approved in advance by the Executive Committee.

It was agreed that a copy of the amended Plan of Action be sent to each member of the two school boards.

Mr. Groton and Mr. Latimer outlined the work to be accomplished in the legal area. The Commission agreed that the lawyers be given the authority to start work as outlined in the following three areas:

1. General Powers
2. Revenue from sources other than Local School Tax
3. Power to Increase Bonded Debt and Assumption of Bonded Debt

The lawyers are to keep the Commission informed about progress, costs, and proposed next steps. The Commission will select and approve each additional item to be studied before action is taken by the lawyers.

It was suggested that Dr. Pierce and the lawyers proceed as expeditiously as possible and that the Commission meet again in approximately 30 days to hear progress reports. At the October meeting, plans for an interim report will be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Approved By: _____
Chairman

Recording Secretary