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School Study Comm.*

MINUTES
LOCAL EDUCATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 11, 1964

The Local Education Commission met Friday, December 11, 1964, at 2:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the Fulton County Administration Building with the following members present:

Mr. P. L. Bardin	Mrs. Alan Ritter
Mr. Otis Jackson	Mr. Wallace Stewart
Mr. Allen Kiepper	Mr. Kenneth Stringer
Mr. Earl Landers	Mr. William Teems
Dr. John W. Letson	Mr. Fred J. Turner
Mr. Thomas Miller	Dr. Paul D. West

The minutes of the October 2, 1964, meeting of the Local Education Commission were read and adopted.

The report entitled, "ONE DISTRICT FOR ATLANTA AND FULTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEMS?", which was presented by Dean Pierce at the October 2 meeting was discussed briefly. Mr. Otis Jackson moved that the report be accepted and thereby place the Commission on record as endorsing the position that the two school systems should be combined. Mr. Turner seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The question was raised concerning the number of Commission members required to constitute a quorum. Mr. Bardin read the following portion of Section 2 of the House Resolution No. 505-1246, "A majority of the persons serving as members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum to do business but a less number may adjourn from time to time." He then ruled that ten members would constitute a quorum whether they were all voting members or not.

A letter from Mr. L. H. Newsome stating that he had moved from Atlanta was read. Dr. Rufus Clement was unanimously elected to replace him.

Mr. Otis Jackson gave a brief report of the trip made to Charlotte-Mecklenburg, North Carolina, School System on November 4, 1964. Mr. Bardin and Dr. Letson made this trip also. Mr. Jackson reported that

all of the people contacted in Charlotte seemed to be well pleased with the new school organization and would not exchange it for the old structure. Mr. Jackson pointed out that combining the North Carolina systems did not require as many changes in legal and financial structures as will be required for Atlanta and Fulton County.

Financial expenditures have not been decreased through combining the systems because salaries and other services have been adjusted upward. Although operating the new system required more money than was required for the two systems, the representatives contacted believe that much better services are now being provided and that in general, the educational opportunities are of a higher quality.

The public relations aspect of the consolidation was very important. Considerable effort was devoted to forming small discussion groups and other structures through which citizens were informed about combining the systems. A complete written report of the process of combining the two systems is not available.

A tentative budget for the years 1965-66 for the sum of \$86,480 was submitted to the Commission. It was pointed out that \$10,000 of this amount had been appropriated by the Atlanta and the Fulton County School Systems. However, approximately \$4,000 was spent for operating expenses during 1964.

Mr. Turner expressed an opinion that every effort possible should be made by the County and the City to finance the Commission's study and that if funds are not available locally, then financial assistance should be sought elsewhere.

Mr. Teem moved that the budget be adopted as presented and that it be entitled a tentative operating budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously.

Places to secure funds for the budget were identified and the urgency for contacting foundations early in the year was stressed. Mr. Teem made the motion that the Ford Foundation be approached as a first step in attempting to obtain finances for the operation of the Commission. If the proposal is not received favorably by the Ford

Foundation, then other sources should be contacted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stewart and passed unanimously. It was agreed that in the meantime, the respective local governments and agencies should be notified that the Commission may ask them for funds to complete the study.

Mr. Bardin stated that Commission funds are now handled by the Comptroller of the Atlanta School System. He stated that Mr. Holley could continue to handle the funds but that Mr. Stringer, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission, would authorize expenditures and make financial reports to the Commission. The Commission would approve all large expenditures but out of pocket funds could be authorized by Mr. Stringer or, in his absence by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Mr. Thomas Miller moved that this procedure be adopted. Mr. Stewart seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Dean Pierce then gave a report on the Interim Report which is to be filed with the Representatives of Fulton and DeKalb Counties and the Senators of the 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd and 43rd Districts in the General Assembly of Georgia and with the Clerks of the superior courts having jurisdiction in Fulton and DeKalb Counties and with the City Clerk of the City of Atlanta on the first day of the next session of the General Assembly following January 1, 1965. Mrs. Ritter moved that the report be accepted. The motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed that legal services be delayed until after monies to fund the budget have been obtained.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

ECH:dh

December 30, 1964