

RESOLUTION OF THE PARENTS AND
CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

At a meeting of parents and citizens of Washington County held on September , 1964 at in the City of , it was duly RESOLVED:

That an immediate hearing be requested of the Superintendent of Schools and members of the School Board whereby the requests stated below may be discussed and peacefully resolved. It shall be requested that:

1. The public schools of Washington County be completely desegregated immediately in accordance with the 1954 decision of the United States Supreme Court in Brown v. Board of Education outlawing segregation in public schools and that all children in all grades be permitted to go to the schools of their choice. Although ten years have passed since this decision, public school education in this county continues on a segregated basis in violation of our children's rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

2. That there be equality in all the public schools of Washington County with respect to educational facilities, qualifications of teachers, standards of instruction and rules and practices governing the conditions of study and attendance. Not only have Negro pupils been denied their constitutional right to attend public schools on a nondiscriminatory basis, but they have been denied even the "separate but equal" education required before Plessy. It shall therefore be requested specifically that:

a. The curriculum of required and elective courses be uniform in all public schools of Washington County, with respect to subjects taught and the semester and year in which such subjects are offered, and further with respect to the ratio of qualified teachers to students desirous of enrolling in such courses. This request applies specifically but is not limited to foreign language and other courses necessary for admission to accredited colleges in the United States.

b. That the standards by which teachers are deemed qualified to teach specific courses at specific levels be uniform in all the public schools of Washington County. Such standards shall include the minimum specialized education and training required of teachers.

c. That no teacher's job be jeopardized for engaging in community-wide activities designed to obtain and exercise their constitutional rights, particularly the right to vote. If our teachers are not registered to vote and are not themselves responsible citizens, we do not believe that they are qualified to teach our children.

d. That the ratio of teachers to enrolled students and the maximum number of pupils per assigned teacher shall be uniform with respect to all courses and levels in all the public schools of Washington County.

e. That no fees for registration, books, athletic activities or other goods or services shall be charged of the children or parents of children of any public school of Washington County unless such fees are charged uniformly of all children or parents of children of all the public schools of Washington County.

f. That the practice of charging tuition or other fees for the education of Negro children living with persons other than their natural parents be immediately and permanently ended.

g. That the practice of charging tuition or other fees for the education of Negro students who are parents of children born out of wedlock, and the practice of excluding from the public schools, or otherwise penalizing such Negro students, be immediately and permanently ended.

h. That the same textbooks, work books and other educational materials be supplied at no charge or at uniform charges to all students in each course at each level in the public schools of Washington County, and that such books and other materials be uniform with respect to age, physical condition and ratio of new to used books and other materials.

i. That the libraries of all the public schools of Washington County be constituted of copies of the same books and other educational materials, that the copies of said books and other materials be uniform in all public schools with respect to age, physical condition and ratio of new to used books and other materials and that the total quantity of books supplied to any public school be determined solely on the basis of the proportionate size of its enrollment with relation to the enrollment of all other public schools of said county.

j. That all the public schools of Washington County be supplied with laboratories, workshops and other specialized educational facilities of such size and of such quality and efficiency of equipment as to meet uniform standards of adequacy for all said schools.

k. That buses required for transportation for students be equal in quantity, quality, age and physical condition to meet the needs of students in all the public schools of Washington County.

l. That the physical facilities of all public schools of Washington County be equal, in terms of the number, size and equipment of classrooms and libraries and of the quality and adequacy of utility services including heating, ventilation and sanitary facilities, in order to meet uniform standards of adequacy for all public schools in said county.

m. That the dates for school sessions be uniform for all public schools of Washington County. *(Neg. schools close in May sometimes to help wheat)*

n. That rules and regulations governing the public schools of Washington County be standardized and publicized.

o. That the practice of having Negro students pick cotton and contribute money to their teachers or principal be promptly and permanently ended.

Citizens and Parents of Washington County

I hereby certify that the above constitutes a true and accurate text of a resolution duly approved and adopted at a meeting of parents and citizens of Washington County held on September , 1964 at , City of .

Secretary