

File
R. J. Brewster

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE
CITY OF NORFOLK.

July 17, 1958

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Norfolk, having fully considered the questions involved in the applications of Negro children for transfers to or initial enrollments in previously all white schools of the City of Norfolk, and having been advised by its attorneys of its duties and obligations under the order of the District Court of the United States, For the Eastern District of Virginia, entered in the cause of Leola Pearl Beckett, et al, v. The School Board of the City of Norfolk, et al, the 26th day of February, 1957, and being fully conscious of its responsibilities in the premises, recognizes that under the said order and in the light of the hearing before the Court held on June 7, 1958, that all applications received from Negro children, or their parents, seeking enrollment in schools of the City previously attended by only white children, must be acted upon with reasonable promptness and that all questions as to the rights of such children to be enrolled in any such school must be determined by the school authorities, without regard to race or color; and

WHEREAS, the School Board considers that it has the clear responsibility to treat all public school pupils fairly and justly in according to them the best educational facilities available and to avoid the assignment of any child to a grade level or curriculum not best adapted to the degree of mental abilities and present scholastic achievements of such child; and

WHEREAS, the School Board recognizes its duty to operate all of the schools in the City School System with full regard for the public interest and for the proper interests of all pupils, regardless of race or color, and, therefore, must not unnecessarily burden any class or classroom or any entire school by the assignment

thereto of more than a proper and workable proportion of the total number of students in the public schools of the City; and

WHEREAS, for the accomplishment of the purposes and ends described in the preceding preambles it is deemed both desirable and necessary that this Board adopt and apply assignment standards, criteria and procedures for their application,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the assignment standards, criteria and procedures hereinafter set forth be, and the same are hereby, adopted.

RESOLVED FURTHER that it being necessary to set a time limit for the making of applications for transfer from a previously all Negro school to or for initial enrollment in a previously all white school, or from a white school to a Negro school, no such application shall be considered or acted upon unless made to the proper school authorities prior to the 25th day of July, 1958.

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

1. The assignment shall not endanger the health or safety of the child assigned to or the children already enrolled in the school.
2. The assignment shall not interfere with the proper administration of the school.
3. The assignment shall not interfere with proper instruction of pupils already enrolled in the school.
4. The assignment shall be made after consideration of the applicant's academic achievement and the academic achievement of the pupils already within the school to which he is applying.
5. The assignment shall be made with consideration for the residence of the applicant.
6. The assignment shall consider the physical and moral fitness of the applicant and their relation to the general health and welfare of the pupils already enrolled in the school.
7. The assignment shall consider the mental ability of the applicant seeking enrollment.
8. The assignment shall take into consideration the social adaptability of the applicant seeking enrollment.

9. The assignment shall take into consideration the expected emotional and social adjustment of the pupil to the school to which he is assigned.
10. The assignment shall take into consideration the cultural background of the applicant and the pupils already enrolled in the schools.

PROCEDURES

1. The Superintendent shall inaugurate and administer a program of tests to be given, as promptly as possible in the current year and between July 1st and August 20th of all subsequent years, to all children who apply, or for whom applications are made, for transfer from any other school, either within or without the City of Norfolk, to any public school of the City of Norfolk heretofore attended only by students of the opposite race, or who apply, or for whom applications are made, for initial enrollment in any public school of the City of Norfolk heretofore attended only by students of the opposite race, provided, however, that in the cases of the Negro children who have already applied for transfers or initial enrollments, or any others applying before July 25, 1958, such tests shall be given as soon as is reasonably practicable and not later than August 8, 1958, such tests to be applied and administered according to the standards and criteria above set out and on a racially non-discriminatory basis, the same to be a requisite before enrollment in all such cases.
2. The Superintendent shall appoint from the personnel of the City School System one or more committees of five members each, including himself as chairman, with the direction that each committee shall, before the 8th day of August of this year, and between July 1st and August 20th of all subsequent years, interview each student, and his or her parents or guardians, who applies or for whom application is made to be assigned to and enrolled in a school of the city heretofore attended only by students of the opposite race, in order to determine whether such student meets the standards and criteria above set forth, and whether the requested assignment and enrollment are in accordance with the wishes of the particular student involved and of his or her parents or guardians, and thereafter promptly report its findings and recommendations, in writing, to this Board.
3. No pupil required to comply with the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall be enrolled in any school except by the affirmative act of this Board, which shall in all cases exercise its proper discretion in making such assignments in the light of all the pertinent facts, but without regard to race or color.