

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
submitted by BLACK PARENTS FOR  
QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE MOUNT VERNON AREA

I. Curriculum

- A. A revision of the entire curriculum to incorporate the entire scope of black culture in the field of humanities.
- B. One area of United States - Virginia History now required for high school completion, be the area of Black History taught by qualified instructors who have a degree in the field or equivalent training.
- C. An educational alternative curricula for students who are not capable of performing within the present regimented program.
  - 1. An educational alternative to expulsion for those students who have academic oriented goals but who appear incapable of performing within the regimented highly structured academic program.
  - 2. An educational alternative program for those students who are career oriented after high school.
    - a. Preparation for two year programs (George Mason College, Northern Virginia Community College) with Certificates or Associates of Arts degrees in business, commerce, medical technology, allied health fields, communications, environmental technology, urban affairs, etc.
    - b. Post high school courses to be offered during the day and night for high school diploma holders who would like to come back and extend or improve their skills in such trades as printing, home building industries, office workers, food services, chefs, automotive industries, etc.
- D. Curriculum to stress process rather than content. The curriculum should allow for exits at every level with alternatives that are viable and entry at every level provided lower levels have been attained or a substitute equivalent submitted.
- E. If expulsion must be used against minorities, in view of the job crisis for black youth (overall black teenage unemployment rate is over 35%), it is recommended that educational alternatives outside the regular school program with follow up procedures be made available. Failure in this area will result in resort to court action.

- F. Consultation with qualified consultants to revise the curriculum to incorporate the above named changes.

## II. Staffing

- A. A Human relations advisory committee consisting of parents to keep the human relations coordinator aware of and abreast of the parents' thinking in the area of human relations in the schools.
- B. A staff training workshop prior to the beginning of the school year 1972 to be composed of selected administrators, human relations research teachers, counselors and faculty members. Participants would meet in a retreat environment and experience meaningful sensitivity training in racial experiences designed to combat institutional racism. Subsequent to this training, the participants would serve as a core training group for on-going in-service training for the entire Fairfax County Public Schools administrative and instructional staff. Trainers involved must be persons who are themselves aware of and sensitive to the varied forms of subtle and overt racism.

### Examples of Sources for Qualified Trainers:

1. National Training Laboratory
2. Howard University
3. Federal City College

- C. The Human Relations Coordinator meet with the County Director of Guidance to develop a program for the training and retaining of counselors within the school system. The program would be designed to increase the counselors capabilities of performing guidance and counseling services to minority students.
- D. We demand that dual and arbitrary standards for suspensions and expulsions be stopped immediately; that Division Superintendent of Schools hold directly responsible the individual school principal for any infraction of this policy. Failure to meet this demand will result in court action.
- E. More community oriented persons placed in the role of teacher aids (Young adult black males have been particularly effective in dealing in disciplinary matters) Provide a work study program with upward mobility which would enable the aid to assume increasingly academic responsibility. (Examples: School without Walls; HEW's Career Opportunity Program, Other Work Study Programs (Viable).

F. Provide for an interdisciplinary team to include the following resources persons: Educational Specialist, Special Educator, Counselor, Medical Doctor, Parent, Vocational Specialist, Psychologist, Psychiatrist, Visiting Teacher, Sociologist, Legal Aid. Duties of team would be:

1. to assess minority students who are not responding positively to the educational program with emphasis placed upon the students strengths (educational) and less emphasis placed upon deficits (behaviorial anomalies)
2. to make recommendations for individualized appropriate educational opportunities either within the regular program or some other school sponsored activity.
3. to develop follow up procedures for those students who are referred to these programs. Emphasis is placed upon the role played by special education as the answer to many of these students. Special education placement for those students who are disadvantaged by inappropriate regular programs are not the answer. Special education as it is presently constituted (mentally retarded - A.M.A. definition) is not acceptable in these instances.

### III. Special Services

- A. Media Centers - Inclusion in each school library of not less than 2% of total volumes to be significant volumes pertaining to black culture. Increase significant films, video tapes, etc. pertaining to black culture and the black experience in American Society.
- B. An adhoc parent group composed of minority parents be instituted to review recommended text books for Fairfax County Public Schools.