

Special Subcommittee on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Public School Closings in Virginia

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission *Brown v. Board of Education* Scholarship Committee

Steering Committee (Group B) Summary

I. Opening Event With President

- Hold the opening event at the State Capitol in the House Chamber
- Invite the families of former Delegates Hunt Whitehead and George Cochran, and Senator Kossen Gregory
- Use technology to reach a large audience, e.g. You Tube
- Include a visit to a local public school which models goals for educators, e.g. Linwood Holton Elementary School
- Present the history of public education in Virginia during Massive Resistance era prior to visit to model school
- Request the issuance of a Superintendent's Memorandum with resources for teachers, e.g. C-SPAN's broadcast of the UVA Conference on Massive Resistance and the Encyclopedia Virginia

I. Alternative: Opening Event Without President

- There was no discussion of an alternative opening event

II. Website

- 50th Anniversary of Public School Closings is posted on MLK Commission website
- Development of menu ongoing

III. Preservation of Historical Records and Facilities

- Produce a film concerning Massive Resistance in Virginia as a legacy project
- Highlight localities in which public schools were closed
- Invite historians and scholars to submit writings on each locality
- Use a power point presentation and other technology to educate the public regarding Virginia's history and the role of the relevant locality during Massive Resistance. The presentation should be a component of the Commission's public relations package and used in advertisements prior to the Subcommittee's visit to the locality
- Request public libraries to exhibit artifacts and records from the Massive Resistance Era, and make use of virtual exhibits to facilitate greater public access, e.g. You Tube, Facebook, etc.
- Ask local school boards to prepare a message regarding the history of desegregation in their school division for the commemoration. The messages should be assembled for distribution statewide.
- Explore the possibility of engaging law school students and student journalists to assist the Subcommittee in gathering the information

IV. Guest Editorials and Scholarly Writings

- Suggested names of persons who may be invited to write editorials and other papers should be sent to staff

V. Public Relations

- Deferred to the September 16th meeting

VI. Promotion of Localities and Significant Sites Related to Massive Resistance and Brown

- Consider and explore the potential of coordinating with the Desegregation of Virginia Education (DOVE) Project
- Identify and contact the DOVE coordinator to discuss the possibility of coordination of efforts
- Make this an end product

VII. Concluding Event

- Possible venues--Library of Virginia
- Center Stage in Richmond