

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission



Senate Room B
General Assembly Building
Richmond, Virginia
Tuesday, July 8, 2003
10:00 a.m.

Concurrent Meeting
King Commission, Brown Anniversary Steering Committee
and Participants

AGENDA: WORK SESSION

"50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education: Virginia's Redemptive Moment"

1. **Call to order**—Senator Henry L. Marsh, III, *Chairman*
2. **Preliminary remarks**—Chairman
3. **Introduction of members**—Chairman
4. **Presentations: Virginia's Past and**
"Wit, Will, and Walls"
 - Mrs. Betty Ann Kilby Fisher**Prince Edward County Schools Work Group**
 - The Honorable Viola O. Baskerville**Film Project: And They Closed Their Schools**
 - Mr. Brian Grogan**Remarks**
 - Dr. Ronald, Hampden-Sydney College

Continued on Reverse Side

5. **Staff Briefing**
 - Board of Trustees of the King Living History and Public Policy Center
 - Senate Joint Resolution 316 (2003)
 - Brown Anniversary Steering Committee
 - Persons Participating in Deliberations
 - Proposed Budget
 - Commission's Plans for 2004 King Holiday
 - National Commission on the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education
 - Suggested Activities and Events for Commemoration of Brown

--Brenda H. Edwards, Senior Research Associate
--Norma E. Szakal, Senior Attorney
6. **Brain Storm Session: Comments and Suggestions**
 - King Commission
 - Steering Committee
 - Persons Participating in Deliberations
7. **Establishment of Meeting Schedules**
 - King Commission (quarterly)
 - Brown Anniversary Steering Committee (monthly)
8. **Directions to staff**
9. **Other Business**
10. **Adjournment**

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Delegate Robert Hurt
Senator Benjamin J. Lambert, III
Delegate Daniel W. Marshall, III
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission

**Concurrent Meeting
King Commission, Brown Anniversary Steering Committee
and Participants**

Tuesday, July 8, 2003

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Suggested Activities for Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary

The King Commission and its Steering Committee must plan, initiate, coordinate, and implement year-long activities and events to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. Senate Joint Resolution 316 (2003) directs the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission to:

1. Inventory the Commonwealth regarding planned commemorative events;
2. Confer and collaborate with the Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission, the Robert Russa Moton Museum, the Brown Foundation, the Secretary of Education, the Superintendent of Public Education, the State Council of Higher Education, the Virginia Community College System, the Office of the Attorney General, the judicial system, local school boards, institutions of higher education, local governments, legal and civil rights organizations, relevant federal agencies, the religious community, and other interested parties to plan, coordinate, and implement appropriate year-long activities and events leading to and following May 17, 2004;
3. Issue a calendar of events that includes all known national and statewide programs, activities, and events commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education; and
4. Notify and seek the cooperation of all relevant parties regarding the provisions of this resolution.

The following events and activities are proposed for consideration and discussion.

1. Re-enact the Brown decision—argument and rendering of decision. The participation of attorneys and jurists would be solicited for this event that would be held in a courtroom in Virginia.
2. Co-sponsor, endorse, support events and activities planned by the Virginia Historical Society, the Richmond Education Association, institutions of higher education, public schools, local governments, film and book projects, etc.
3. Digitize historical documents from Jim Crow and Massive Resistance eras and post on King web site to provide access to public, students, scholars, researchers, etc.
4. Compile a listing of national and international commemorative events and activities.
5. Survey the Commonwealth to identify and catalog former all-Black segregated schools for purpose of securing historic preservation and designation.
6. Establish mini history courses designed to inform students and the public of the social context and significance of the Brown decision.
7. Request the assistance of the media for the following:
 - Public service announcements and advertisements
 - Special edition newspapers
 - Television, MTV, Radio One, PBS, ETV special programs on Virginia history during this period, the Brown decision, and the education of minority students post-Brown.

8. Co-host, with the Governor and other state officials, the reception for the National Commission on the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.
9. Attend the business meeting and other activities during the Virginia visit of the National Commission on the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, January 15-17, 2004.
10. Arrange the broadcast of the National Commission's business meeting via C-SPAN.
11. Provide technical assistance and resource persons to public schools desiring to observe the 50th anniversary of the Brown decision.
12. Develop educational activities that involve students K-20.
13. Request that Barnes and Noble include a course on the history of the Brown decision among its electronic courses.
14. Explore the possibility of joint ventures with one or more bookstores to spotlight and offer at reduced prices certain books pertaining to Virginia history during the period of the Brown decision.
15. Explore the possibility of exhibits regarding the Brown decision at public libraries.
16. Offer lunch time history bites with eminent scholars and historians at various state agencies and institutions of higher education, e.g., DLS, DMV, DOE, SCHEV, LVA, VA Tech, ODU, etc., that can be made accessible throughout the Commonwealth via the technological infrastructure.
17. Explore the possibility of joint ventures with business and industry, e.g. employees reading relevant sections of the U.S. Constitution to students, financial support for events and activities.
18. Sponsor scholarly research and publications on post-Brown educational and social issues.
19. Request special anniversary edition law journals of Virginia law schools focused on Brown decision.
20. Request special anniversary edition history and political science journals of Virginia institutions of higher education focused on Brown decision.
21. Posting of historical documents on King web site to provide access to students K-16.
22. Establish an annotated bibliography of Virginia during Jim Crow and Brown era and post to King web site.

23. Exhibit of relevant state documents and Governors' papers from Massive Resistance.
24. Conduct a Statewide Conference on Brown, giving particular attention to assessing "where we are presently and where we go from here."
25. Request Virginia's law schools to offer a symposium that addresses the legal implications of Brown and the current Supreme Court decisions in the Michigan cases now and in the future regarding educational equity.
26. Request Virginia's schools of education to design and offer electives during the 2004 academic year that will acquaint prospective teachers, school administrators, and guidance counselors with this historical period, provide practical classroom experience with racially and ethnically diverse students, and/or independent study, mentorship, or work with teachers who taught in segregated schools.
27. Host a "Moment in Time with Oliver Hill."
28. Conduct oral histories of persons who attended segregated schools and those affected by Massive Resistance.
29. Conduct a study to assess the educational, economic, psychological, and sociological effects of school closings in Virginia on affected students and their families through the third generation.
30. Regional Town Hall meetings regarding the legacy and implications of the decision.
31. Legislation designating Brown v. Board of Education year.
32. Survey of the Commonwealth to identify Brown-related activities.
33. Posting of activities and establish links to King web site concerning Brown events and activities.
34. Posting of Virginia's events and activities to national Brown web sites.
35. Develop a blueprint to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students and for improving the education of minority students in Virginia.
36. Establish and distribute electronically a monthly publication relating to the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. Such a publication may feature updates on events, educational resources, speakers, special articles, historical facts and figures, guest authors.
37. Solicit the comments of students regarding the significance of Brown, and their views on education today, perspectives on current educational needs, and the future of public education.
38. Establish a collection of reports, documents, books, literature being published concerning the 50th Anniversary of Brown and related issues and make such materials available to the public electronically and on a non-circulating basis through the Division of Legislative Services.

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The Honorable William C. Cleveland
The Honorable Dwight C. Jones
The Honorable Benjamin J. Lambert, III
The Honorable Floyd H. Miles, Sr.
The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr.
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