



INNER CITY ORGANIZATION

INNER CITY ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Rev. Albert B. Cleage, Jr., Chairman

INNER CITY PARENTS PRESENT PROGRAM FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN INNER CITY SCHOOLS

DETROIT - Charging that the failure of Detroit inner city schools to educate inner city children stems from the failure of the Board of Education and the Superintendent to give strong administrative direction, the Inner City Parents Council has prepared an 18-page documented statement of charges and proposals for its appointment with the Board of Education on Tuesday, June 13, at the Schools Center Building, 9057 Woodward Ave. at 4 p.m. The Inner City Parents Council represents many active parents groups throughout the city and is affiliated with the Inner City Organizing Committee of which the Rev. Albert B. Cleage Jr. is chairman.

"For the last five years, beginning with the report of the Committee on Equal Educational Opportunities and most recently in the Interim Report of the Northwestern High School Study Group, citizens committees have been painstakingly documenting the failure of Detroit inner city schools to educate inner city children and demanding strong direction from the Board," said Rev. Cleage. "Yet the situation has grown steadily worse. Now we are presenting a series of realistic constructive proposals on which we are demanding immediate Board action.

"We propose that the nine new Region Assistant positions, for which a large number of qualified Negroes have applied, be all filled by Negroes. This would mark at least a first step towards equalizing the terrible discrepancy, documented in the report from the Educational Committee of the Detroit NAACP last January, between the percentage of Negro children and the percentage of Negro administrators in the Detroit schools.

"We are also proposing that all administrative vacancies from Counselors and Department Heads up be filled with Negroes until at least 50% of the administrators in

the Detroit system are Negro.

"Because the machinery for the selection and promotion of administrators in the Detroit system is now in the hands of white administrators who have a vested interest in maintaining their own position and power to select and promote, we are asking the Board of Education to join with us in requesting the State Board of Education to set up new objective machinery for testing and evaluating applicants for administrative positions in the Detroit system.

"Also realizing that administrators must be held immediately accountable for the great educational responsibilities to which they are assigned, we are asking the Board of Education to join with us in requesting the State Board of Education to establish state-wide achievement standards for all grade levels and annual state-wide achievement tests for grades 3-12. We are further asking that the results of these tests be made public so that administrators who are unable to bring their schools up to or keep them at grade level can be immediately replaced.

"Both of these requests to the State Board of Education are also being submitted to the Michigan State Legislature with the request that they take legislative action if the State Board does not see fit to comply immediately with these requests.

"We have also urged a rapid reduction in the present extensive use of uncertificated and poorly prepared personnel in the Detroit schools. But as long as these are permitted to remain in the system, we insist that they be equally distributed between inner city and outlying schools."

"As the Parents' statement says in conclusion, 'no city can long endure if it refuses to face realistically the problem created by its continuing failure to educate more than 50% of its population.' Our proposals are aimed at halting the steady disintegration of the urban community."