

Statement of Position

We, citizens of the Black community of Detroit, fully conscious of the fact that our children are not receiving a decent education, viewing the increasing deterioration in the educational situation in this city, and after innumerable presentations of our grievances and proposals to the Board of Education to no avail, have finally come to the conclusion that COMMUNITY CONTROL OF SCHOOLS is the only way to establish real accountability of the school system to the Black community.

We further wish to make it clear that we know "Decentralization" is not the same as "COMMUNITY CONTROL OF SCHOOLS." COMMUNITY CONTROL OF SCHOOLS means the right of local governing boards, elected by the community, to control the budget, hire and dismiss teachers and administrators, and determine curriculum.

It is these rights which we are determined to secure for the sake of ourselves and our posterity.

Citizens for Community Control of Schools

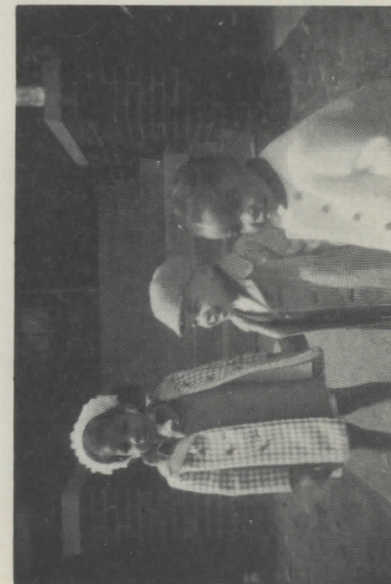
P. O. Box 494 Detroit, Michigan 48204

Aims and Purposes

1. To crystallize community opinion that the present school system does not and cannot provide adequate education for Black children and that only through a fundamental redistribution of power can this be done.
2. To alert the Black community to the difference between Community Control and Decentralization.
3. To make clear to the Black community the positive advantages that can come from Community Control of Schools, such as increased motivation of our children to learn; a curriculum that is more relevant to the needs of the Black community; closer and more harmonious relations between teachers and students, parents and teachers, and students and parents; keeping the millions spent for education inside the Black community.
4. To encourage Black teachers, students and parents to explore new forms of education, using the new equipment and methods that are now available but which are being denied us by the school administration.
5. To inform local community groups of alternatives to the present system, including how Community Control of Schools is working in other cities.
6. To encourage local community groups to develop their own strategies and their own operating procedures for Community Control of Schools, calling upon professional help as required or desired.
7. To explore the legislative changes that may be necessary to bring about Community Control of Schools, being on guard against legislation that may limit the funds available to the Black community.
8. To make the struggle for Community Control of Schools a learning process for the entire Black community. This is an opportunity for all those who have a stake in the products of education - and that means each of us - to learn to work together as a coalition and to inspire in our children confidence in the ability of Black people to control their own destiny.

CITIZENS for
COMMUNITY
CONTROL of
SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 494 Detroit, Michigan 48204



OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR HOPE
AND OUR FUTURE

COMMUNITY CONTROL of SCHOOLS

Chance
for
Change
for Black Children

THE PROBLEM

1. The present school system has failed Black children. Just look at the low achievement level and the high rate of suspensions and dropouts in Black schools.

THE LONGER BLACK CHILDREN STAY IN SCHOOL, THE FURTHER THEY FALL BEHIND.

2. Under the present system, teachers and teacher organizations, administrators and administrator organizations, and the Board of Education itself are **not accountable to the Black community.**

Instead of accepting the responsibilities for which they are paid, school personnel shift the blame for their failure to our children. (Our children are "culturally deprived" they alibi.)

Our taxes pay the salaries of school officials. They are our employees, but we have to beg them for everything—from Afro-American History classes and Black principals to extra school buses and enough textbooks for a classroom.

3. Growing Black pride and Black consciousness in Black youth and the Black community call for New ideas and New Methods in education which are resisted by school administrators. This resistance is deepening the gulf between the school and the community and playing havoc with education in general.

4. The present school administration is paving the road to financial bankruptcy of the public schools. The administrative costs of education are going up by leaps and bounds while the education of our children is running downhill.

THE SOLUTION

All over the country Black communities are mobilizing for -

COMMUNITY CONTROL OF SCHOOLS

How it works:

COMMUNITY CONTROL OF SCHOOLS shifts power from a central citywide board to Local Community Boards. The Local Community should decide how the Governing Board is selected. The Board should include PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY PEOPLE.

The powers of the Local Board must include:

BUDGETING - to set their own priorities for budget spending, e.g., deciding to hire a new teacher rather than painting a school.

HIRING, SCREENING AND SETTING THE STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS.

SETTING EDUCATIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

SETTING CURRICULUM.

PURCHASING POWER - for books, supplies, equipment, food service, building contracts, etc.

What it means:

1. A WHOLE NEW OUTLOOK IN EDUCATION. NEW ROLES AND NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR PARENTS - TEACHERS - STUDENTS - ADMINISTRATORS.
2. MAKES THE SCHOOL A REAL PARTNER IN BUILDING THE BLACK COMMUNITY.
3. GIVES PARENTS POLICY-MAKING AND ECONOMIC POWER AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.
4. GIVES BLACK CHILDREN AN IMMEDIATE WAY OF KNOWING THAT THEIR PARENTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION.

THE NEXT STEP

What YOU can do!

PARENTS - STUDENTS - TEACHERS

1. Call meetings to inform the Black community about the worsening situation in our schools and the need for COMMUNITY CONTROL. Communicate the urgency by letters, phone calls, door-to-door canvassing.
2. Organize discussion groups in your local organizations - block clubs, churches, fraternal organizations, PTAs, Student Councils, Teen Groups, Teacher Organizations - to spread the word and mobilize support for COMMUNITY CONTROL OF SCHOOLS.
3. Organize local committees to obtain real Community Control of specific school programs (as a starter), e.g., After-School, Summer School, Federally-funded projects, foundation and corporate programs.
Be ready to move to direct action, if necessary, such as pickets, boycotts, sit-ins, liberation of schools and actual takeover of the schoolhouse until the community obtains real decision-making power over these programs.
4. Get together with other parents, teachers and students to explore and investigate NEW IDEAS, NEW METHODS AND NEW TECHNIQUES IN EDUCATION.

COMMUNITY CONTROL OF SCHOOLS

Did You Know ?

- ◆ Federally-funded programs such as Headstart
Teacher Corps
Great Cities
Neighborhood Service Program(NSP)
More Effective Schools (MES)

require -

"Maximum Feasible Citizen Participation"

- ◆ Black children constitute the Majority of the school population in Detroit (and other big cities).

- ◆ Education is this country's biggest business. Each year upwards of 50 billion dollars are poured into education to feed a bureaucratic machine which has completely failed to meet the needs of Black children.

- ◆ As a citizen, you have the right to know and to decide how this money is used at your school.

CONTACT

Citizens for Community Control of Schools

for more information on

Speakers
Research Data
Strategies
Literature