

Presentation to School Board
by CLINTON ADAMS, JR.
July 13, 1992

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This Superintendent has been non-responsive to our simple requests for equity, for parity, and for justice. By placing limits and restrictions on the African Studies theme for D. A. Holmes he has, in effect, diminished the value and the essence of African and African-American culture as a suitable curricular focus in relation to all other magnet themes.

The ball is now in your court. You're our elected representatives and we're appealing to you to hear our cause and respond to our reasonable requests for revisions to the administration's Long-Range Magnet Plan.

While this Superintendent's condescending, insulting and offensive compromise is conclusive evidence that he lacks the cultural sensitivity and respect for African-Americans necessary to lead a school district with demographics such as ours, and confirms the poor judgement you exercised in both hiring him and extending his contract,

We are hopeful that as the individuals ultimately responsible to the Court and to the community, you will take steps to make the modifications we request. They are as follows:

1. Remove the caveat which links the district's commitment to go forward with African Studies at Holmes to "success at Chick in raising tests scores and desegregating". No such restriction is being placed on his misnamed and misleading Gifted and Talented Programs, the vacuous Futures programs or any other newly proposed magnet themes. To place it on African Studies is an expression and indication that the district lacks commitment to or belief in the educational and desegregative value of a program that emphasizes our culture, our history and our contributions.
2. Proceed with implementation at D. A. Holmes in the 1994-95 school year of the mentor model with an African and African-American Studies focus. We are not asking for another International Studies School with an African Studies emphasis. We're merely asking for one International Studies School with an African Studies emphasis at Chick, (which is in the plan), a mentor school at D. A. Holmes with an African Studies theme,

and a G. T. School at Ladd with an African studies curriculum emphasis.

3. To ensure K-12 thematic continuity the heretofore unsuccessful programs at Southeast Middle School and Southeast High School should be modified to encompass African and African-American Studies.
4. Call upon members of the Community (African-Americans and whites) and nationally recognized scholars and educators to present this schema to the DMC and the Court. This unenlightened Superintendent and his all white team lack the credibility and cogency to persuade anyone to adopt these themes. Their public statements denigrating the essence of our culture and questioning the educational effectiveness and desegregative attractiveness of African Studies programs renders their testimony worthless and ripe for easy impeachment. They have invited rejection by either the DMC, the Court or both.

These four (4) minor requests are reasonable and necessary revisions that would make this plan more palatable to the enlightened, informed, and involved sectors of the community. A sensitive affirmation by you would put this episode behind us.

Thank you.