



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Region III
220 Seventh Street, N. E.
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

MAR 27 1969

Mr. B. Paul Hammack
Superintendent
Weldon City Schools
Box 31
Weldon, North Carolina 27890

Dear Mr. Hammack:

Your desegregation plan, submitted to our Regional Office in Charlottesville in September 1968, along with supplementary information provided by you in a conference on March 12, 1969, has been reviewed and found acceptable to accomplish the purposes of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

We understand that this plan will completely eliminate the dual school structure in the Weldon City Schools by no later than September 1970.

More specifically, we understand that the steps involved in your plan are as follows:

- (1) For the school year 1969-70,
 - a. all ninth and tenth grade students in the city will be housed in the Ralph J. Bunche High School building.
 - b. all eleventh and twelfth grade students in the city will be housed in the Weldon High School. Therefore, the secondary grades, 9-12, will be totally desegregated.
 - c. Freedom of Choice will be continued in the elementary grades.
 - d. there will be an increase in staff desegregation in the Weldon and Bunche Elementary Schools.

- (2) For the school year 1970-71,
 - a. the school district will be divided into two attendance areas for elementary students.
 - b. in the town of Halifax, grades one and two will be housed in the Halifax Elementary School and grades three through eight will be housed in the Andrew Jackson Elementary School.

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c. In the Town of Weldon, grades one through five will be housed in the Weldon Elementary School and grades six through eight will be housed in the Ralph J. Bunche Elementary School.

(3) Faculty members shall be reassigned on a nonracial basis so as to completely desegregate all faculties.

(4) No teacher or principal shall be demoted or not rehired because of race, color or national origin as the dual school system is eliminated.

This plan, formally adopted by the schoolboard and implemented as detailed in your letter, should effectively eliminate all vestiges of the dual school structure in Weldon City.

We commend you and your school board for exercising the leadership necessary to expedite the creation of a single nonracial unitary school system.

Sincerely yours,



Eloise Severinson, Ph. D.
Regional Civil Rights Director

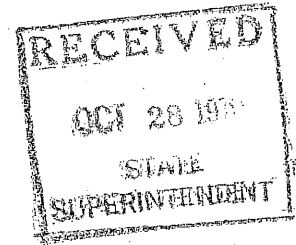
Honorable A. Craig Phillips
Chief State School Officer

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

Slusher
File

October 22, 1970



Mr. M. L. Fisher
Superintendent
Weldon City Schools
West First Street
P. O. Box 31
Weldon, North Carolina 27890

Slusher

Dear Mr. Fisher:

Thank you for the cooperation extended to members of our staff during their recent visit to your district.

According to their report, your district has implemented its desegregation plan and you are now operating a unitary, nonracial school system. Your district therefore is presently in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and continues to be eligible to apply for and receive all classes of Federal financial assistance administered by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for which you are entitled.

As you know, your district has continuing responsibilities under Title VI to operate a system free of all forms of discrimination. Included in these responsibilities is nondiscrimination in the assignment of students to sections, classes, and for all other school purposes; assignment of classroom teachers and other staff must continue to provide that the assignment at each school approximate the racial ratio of teachers and other staff in the system as a whole; the recruitment and employment of staff must be on a nondiscriminatory basis; and all programs and activities in the system must be nondiscriminatory and nonracial. The pilot project at Runcha was still in the adjustment and selection stage at the time of our visit. More white students and additional white faculty should be involved in the program as it is developed so that the school generally reflects the racial ratio of the entire district for students and faculty. In addition, any new construction of buildings or additions must be such that resegregation will not occur. Where it appears there is a possibility

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Mr. M. L. Fisher
Superintendent

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that new locations for school facilities or additions may reduce desegregation, our office should be notified prior to any commitment being made for the construction.

Members of our staff may be visiting your district to further review internal activities later this school year.

If for any reason you believe it is necessary to make any alterations in your plan, please notify us immediately. The leadership you have provided in establishing a unitary system is appreciated. If you have questions, or members of our staff can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd) Dewey E. Dodds

Dewey E. Dodds
Acting Regional Civil Rights Director
for Education
Office for Civil Rights

cc: Chief State School Officer

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