JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
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JULIAN COPE, Ed. D.
Supenntendent

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August 13, 1999

The Honorable Mike Castle
The Honorable Charles Norwood, &
The Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth, and Families
U. S. House of Representatives
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515-6100

Julian Cope, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Jasper County Board of Education
1125A Fred Smith St.
Monticello, GA 31064

Dear Representatives Castle, Norwood, and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me the privilege and the opportunity to address the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Youth, and Families. The discipline and safety of our students is one of my top priorities as Jasper County's superintendent of schools. Without discipline, students cannot learn, and teachers simply cannot teach. I am pleased to support your efforts to increase the discipline and safety of our schools through your amendments to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA).

Jasper County is a rural school district in Middle Georgia serving approximately two thousand students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelve. The local board of education endorses a wide variety of discipline techniques that focus on prevention, intervention, and consequences/punishments for student misbehavior. In grades K-5, an emphasis is placed on conflict resolution, early intervention, and early identification of disruptive youth. These efforts are accomplished through the use of two counselors who provide individual, group counseling, and classroom guidance at both the primary and elementary schools. In addition, two part-time school psychologists work with the

Student Support Teams in the early identification and intervention of students with possible behavioral, emotional, or attentional disorders. In grades 3-12, a special emphasis is placed on the use of peer mediation, which is facilitated by the school counselors at each school. Additional intervention strategies include after-school programs, which concentrate on the remediation of at-risk and academically delayed students. Furthermore, the local board of education allows school facilities use for after-school programs sponsored by 4H and the local mental health STARS program.

Other intervention efforts in the past have included the employment of a safe schools specialist who provided mediation and conflict resolution to students at the middle and high schools. Recently our prevention efforts have shifted, and the local board of education is applying for a COPS in Schools grant to fund a resource officer who will serve students in the alternative school and at the local middle and high school. The resource officer will conduct classes in law-related education, drug and gang awareness, as well as offer additional security to the school climate. In addition to prevention, the local board has enacted and I personally have endorsed the use of many methods of punishment or consequences for disruptive behavior which include but are not limited to: Corporal punishment, after-school detention, In-school suspension, suspension, expulsion, and alternative educational programming (for students in grades 6-12).

Along with the interventions and discipline codes that have been enacted locally, there are several impediments, which interfere with the safety and consistency of discipline in our schools. Let me start by saying that I support the provision of a free and appropriate public education for all children, including children with disabilities. However, the law and regulations as they are written certainly create a double standard for disabled students

who commit offences and severely limit the range of punishment that the building administrator can enact. Jasper County is currently following the provisions of the law which require functional behavioral assessments and behavior intervention plans for disabled students whose behaviors are significantly impacting their own learning or to the learning of others. I feel that we should make an effort to try understand, prevent, and be proactive in addressing the behaviors of disabled students. Furthermore, all discipline of disabled students in Jasper County is done in accordance with their Individual Education Plans (IEP), and administrators consult with our special education director on a regular basis to insure all due process is properly observed. On the other hand, despite the recent changes in the regulatory language concerning discipline under the Reauthorization of IDEA 97, school districts are still limited in the disciplinary measures they can take in addressing a serious conduct violation, even if the violation is not a manifestation of the child's disability. Under the new regulations, if a student's behavior is not a manifestation of his/her disability, and if the student is "removed" or suspended for more than ten days, the regulatory language requires systems provide services to the student, " to the extent necessary to enable the child to appropriately progress in the general curriculum and appropriately advance toward the goals in the child's IEP" 300.121(d)(2)(i)(A). Therefore, the school district is still obligated to provide an education to a disabled student whose conduct was not related to his/her disability; when, on the other hand, a non-disabled student could be expelled permanently for the same offence. The Criminal courts rarely make exceptions according to a person's disability if a crime is committed. Schools systems should be afforded the same standard. Other restrictions include limited resources for alternative educational funding. Although the

Georgia Legislature allocated additional funding for alternative educational programs, our local program lost more than 15% of the funding FY2000 it had received the previous years. This reduction in funding places further strain on local boards of education to provide resources for troubled youth, including students with disabilities who need programming outside of the "regular" school.

In closing, I applaud your efforts to support a safe and more disciplined school environment. It is my hope that the rest of the Subcommittee understands the imbalance and double standard of the current discipline standards under IDEA 97. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julian Cope

Julian Cope, Ed. D
Superintendent

Attachment: Resume

Julian T. Cope

138 Honeysuckle Road
Monticello, GA 31064
(706) 468-2338

Jasper County Board of Education
1125A Fred Smith Street
Monticello, GA 31064
(706) 468-6350

Position:

Superintendent of Schools, Jasper County Board of Education

Education:

Ed.D., Educational Administration, University of Alabama, 1976 - GPA 2.9 out of 3.0
M.S., Educational Administration, Troy State University, 1968 - GPA 3.3 out of 4.0
B.S., Elementary Education, Troy State University, 1964

Work Experience:

Teaching Experience - 4 years
- Grade 5 - Emma P. Flowers Elementary School, Ozark City Schools, Ozark, Alabama, 1964-67
- Grade 4, 5, & 6 Social Studies - Mayme Thompkins Elementary School, Ozark, Alabama, 1967-68

Administrative Experience - 28 years
- Superintendent, Jasper County School System, Monticello, Georgia, 1989-present
- Principal, Jasper County Comprehensive High School, Jasper County School System, Monticello, Georgia, 1980-89
- Principal, John W. Stewart Middle School, Douglas County School System, Douglasville, Georgia, 1977-80
- Principal, Grantville Public Elementary School, Coweta County School System, Newnan, Georgia, 1972-77
- Curriculum Coordinator, Chambers County School System, LaFayette, Alabama, 1971-72
- Assistant Principal, Mountain Gap Junior High School, Huntsville City Schools, Huntsville, Alabama 1969-70
- Coordinator, Education Improvement Project, Huntsville City Schools, Huntsville, Alabama, 1968-69

Professional Certification:

Georgia Certificate, D-7 Administration and Supervision, Data Collector Endorsement

Professional Organizations & Activities:

Jasper County Association of Educators
Regional Educational Services Agency, Board of Directors, Chairman
Georgia Association of Educators
Georgia Association of Educational Leaders
Georgia Association of School Superintendents, Board of Directors
American Association of School Superintendents
Georgia School Boards Association
Georgia School Public Relations Association, Board of Directors
Consortium For Educational Research in Georgia
National Education Association
Private Industry Council
Jasper County Adult Literacy Advisory Committee
Jasper County Board of Health
Friends of Public Health
Georgia Alcohol Policy Partnership
State Commissions
- Georgia Child Care Council
- Georgia Task Force on AIDS Prevention
- Professional Practices Commission

Program Participant:

"Linkages To Minority Teacher Recruitment," Fourth Annual Minority Teacher Recruitment Symposium, 9/95, Savannah, Georgia
"Minority Teacher Recruitment Issues/Strategies," Federal and Regional Resource Centers Workshop on Comprehensive Systems of Personnel Development Teleconference, 6/95
"The RX For Isolation - Consortium Arrangements," Rural Issues State Caucus, 4/95, Fort Valley State College
"Minority Teacher Recruitment - Summary of Best Practices," 4/95, Atlanta, Georgia
"Crucial Issues Strategy Session," Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, 3/95, Atlanta, Georgia
"Issues Affecting School Superintendents and Colleges of Education," Educational Leadership Roundtable, University of Georgia, 3/94, Athens, Georgia
"Teen Pregnancy Prevention," Georgia School Public Relations Association, 1987, Jekyll Island, Georgia

Organized and chaired Task Forces
- Jasper County Drug Prevention, 1981-90
- Jasper County Teen Pregnancy Prevention, 1982-90
  - Received a Proclamation from Governor Joe Frank Harris in November 1987, for work in these areas

Finance:

Developed and maintained a responsible financial program for the Jasper County Board of Education

Successfully led two one percent sales tax referendums in 1997; a $4.6 million bond issue in 1990

Sought and received the following grants
- $30,000 for band uniforms and athletic field improvements, 1998
- $40,000 for building improvements at elementary school, 1997
- $100,000 for Youth Apprenticeship Program, 1996-98
- $40,000 for Modular Building for Technology Center, 1995
- $15,000 toward refurbishment of bleachers at high school, 1995
- $15,000 toward renovating restroom at elementary school, 1995
- $10,000 for improvement of local football, 1994-present
- $119,000 for Alternative School, 1994-98
- $100,000 for Middle School Incentive Grant, 1994-present
- $50,000 from Bell South, 1993
- $50,000 from land settlement with Department of Natural Resources, 1992
- $40,000 for parking at high school, 1992
- $50,000 for middle grade counselor over three years, 1990-92
- $60,000 for asbestos abatement, 1989

Administered facility construction and improvement projects
- $4.8 million construction of new primary school, 1992-94
- $3.3 million addition and renovation at high school, 1989-1992
- $6 million construction of new elementary school 1998-99

Curriculum:

Encouraged, supported and funded
- Hands on Math
- Effective Teaching Strategies
- Balanced Language Arts Program
- Inclusion of Special Education and Title I students in regular programs through Team Teaching and other innovative approaches
- Expanded Administrative and Instructional Technology including hardware, software, and labs

Implemented Middle School concept and provided support for innovative scheduling and instructional delivery systems at all schools
Implemented alternative school program
Sought and received Southern Association Acreditation at primary and elementary schools
Initiated school improvement focus and received state grant for funding
Implemented Accelerated Reading Program

Minority Teacher Recruitment:

Developed and executed a successful 11 point plan to recruit, hire and retain minority teachers

Community Collaboration:

Developed and maintained cooperative/collaborative relationships with Department of Education, business, legislative, and Human Service agencies

Personal:

Married: Barbara Powell
4 sons
Date of Birth: May 8, 1942

"Discipline Strategies for the Middle School," National Association of Middle School Administrators, 1979, Atlanta, Georgia
"History of and Recommendations for Teacher Retirement Systems," Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, 1978, Atlanta, Georgia

Publications:

Columnist: Jasper County Report Card, The Multi County Star, Covington, Georgia, 1990-present
Columnist: The Superintendent's Corner, The Monticello News, Monticello, Georgia, 1990-present
Dissertation: A Study of Educational Issues In Georgia As Perceived by Members of the 1975 Georgia General Assembly
Programs and Concepts from Sister School, Georgia Association of Middle School Principals Journal, Spring, 1979, Vol. 3, No. 1
Assessment of Educational Needs in Alabama Schools, Monograph, The Alabama State Department of Education, 1971

Community Service:

Lay Speaker
Masonic Lodge #50, Jasper County
Deacon, Monticello Baptist Church
Georgia Baptist Convention Advisory Committee of Mercer University
Chamber of Commerce
Community Policing
Jasper County PTA
Jasper County Citizens Advisory Committee
Jasper County Improvement League
Community Action Network, Georgia Pacific Corporation

Administrative Initiatives:

School Health:

Enlisted cooperation of Center for Disease Control, State/District/Local Health Departments to check teeth of all elementary students, 1994
Initiated Family Connection Program, 1993
Healthy Youth Initiative, 1990-present
Brought various health professionals and personalities to high school assemblies to discuss AIDS and Drug Abuse, 1989-present
Enlisted services of Regional and State Health Department in performing a study of Lyme Disease among students, 1989
Secured an annual $10,000 state grant for a Peer Counseling Program at Jasper County High School, 1988-present