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M Street High School From The Record

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THE RECORD

ESTABLISHED, 1893.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,



MR. W. L. HOUSTON,
 Of this City, who is widely discussed as the next G. M. of G. U. O. of O. F.

M STREET HIGH SCHOOL

Subjoined will be found the Action of the Board of Education.

Relative to the M Street High School Controversy. Obligation Goes With Equality.

After many delays and several postponements, the board of education last night, in special meeting, passed upon the charges against Mrs. Anna J. Cooper, principal of the M Street Colored High School. The board retained Mr. Cooper in her position as principal, but stipulated her salary for the

That the board declares that the public school system as at present organized and administered offers to every child of school age an equal opportunity to acquire a common school education in a favorable environment and under the best teachers obtainable; that the advanced courses of the high, manual training, and normal schools are open to all who are able to attain such reasonable standards of scholarship as are everywhere recognized as essential to advancement toward the higher learning; that the same text-books are prescribed, and, in the graded schools, furnished without cost to all alike; that no discrimination has ever been made by the board in the cost and completeness of new school buildings; that

on the case was lengthy, and consisted of four closely written typewritten pages. The trouble at the school was dealt with in every detail. Like report on the late Swartzell case, document was aimed to satisfy parties interested in the case, and is the hope of the board that there will be harmony at the school in the future.

The principal was arraigned for adopting a textbook not prescribed; for disobeying orders of the directors of high schools in not sending four disqualified pupils back to the eighth grade from the first-year class, and for keeping pupils in the school by the adoption of so-called "sympathetic" methods. While it was proven that certain pupils had been drinking intoxicants in the school, the report said that the case was a single instance and that there was no ground for general charge that there had been drinking among the pupils.

[LACK OF LOYALTY ALLEGED.]

The report continued further say: "We find that the principal did not maintain that proper relation, that strict loyalty to the director of high schools that should prevail in a well-organized system."

The board spoke highly of Mrs. Cooper's attainments and her good character, and concluded with the following:

In view of all the facts and conditions and the very strong desire of a large proportion of the colored people of this District to have Mrs. Cooper

the school under her administration. Her retention was ascribed to her high intellectual attainments, her excellent reputation, and because she received the support of a large proportion of the colored race in the District. No changes were made in the curriculum of the school. All members of the board were present.

After hearing the report of the committee of the whole board on the case, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That all courses of study in the public schools of the District, from the kindergarten to the normal schools, adopted and enforced by the present board of education since its organization, are designed to be, and are, identical for the white and the colored schools.

That it has been the steadfast policy of the board to regard the public school system as a unit for all administrative purposes, and accordingly its official acts have applied without favor or preference to the entire body of teachers and to all the pupils under instruction, without regard to color, nationality, or social position.

has been able to influence legislation, teachers doing like work have received like pay, while pupils performing kindred tasks have shared kindred honors.

OBLIGATION WITH EQUALITY.

That the board believes that this equality of participation in the advantages of free education should carry with it an equality of obligation, and that no individual or class of pupils should desire or expect the rewards of scholarly endeavor without fully measuring up to the standards of attainment set for all.

That the board also believes that it is a false and hurtful manifestation of sympathy toward any class of pupils for a teacher or school officer to lower the standards in conformity to which alone pupils can be rightly advanced, and that a regard for the highest interests of the student, whatever his station in life, should withhold from him any promotion or honor which has not been squarely earned.

No mention of Mrs. Cooper's name was made in the resolution adopted, the board dealing only with its policy in regard to the schools. The report

COOPER,
Principal M St. High School.

tained as principal, we her retention, with the exception, however, that the work, the grading of students, the recommendations of students for graduation be conducted in accordance with the policy of the board of education and the conclusions of this report, and that in her official conduct she shall recognize the authority of her superior officer, the director of high schools, and conform her official conduct in all respects to the rules of the board.

In conclusion, the committee recommends that a strict observance be made of the work in the M St. H. School, with a view of maintaining the standards and works herein set forth; preventing any improper conduct on the part of teachers to create disaffection, securing a strict observance of that discipline, official recognition of superior officers, a conduct essential to the best and highest educational results in this important school, and that stated reports of these observations be made to the board for proper action thereon.

PROF. W. H. COUNCILL.

W. H. Councill was born in Fayetteville, N. C., in 1848, and was carried to Alabama by the traders in 1857, through the famous Richmond Slave Pen. In Alabama he worked in the fields with the other slaves. He is a self-made man, having had only few school advantages. He attended one of the first schools opened by kind Northern friends at Stevenson, Ala., in 1865. Here he remained about three years, and this is the basis of his education. He has accumulated quite an excellent library, and the best books of the best masters are his constant companions, as well as a large supply of the best current literature. By private instruction and most incessant study, he gained a knowledge of some of the languages, higher mathematics, and sciences. He was Chief Enrolling Clerk of the A



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