

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
ABERDEEN DIVISION**

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:83-CV-00293-MPM

HORACE WILLIE MONTGOMERY, et al. PLAINTIFFS

v.

STARKVILLE MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, et al. DEFENDANTS

Consolidated with

WILLIAM HARRIS, ET AL. PLAINTIFFS

And

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PLAINTIFF-INTERVENOR

v.

OKTIBBEHA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, et al. DEFENDANTS

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Plaintiff-Intervenor United States of America (“the United States”) and Defendant Starkville-Oktibbeha Consolidated School District (“the Consolidated District”) (together, the “Parties”) jointly submit this report on the status of the Parties’ efforts to agree on the terms of a proposed desegregation order to submit to the Court.

1. On July 13, 2015, this Court approved a temporary desegregation order to govern the Consolidated District for the 2015-2016 school year. The parties agreed to work together to submit a proposed desegregation order to the Court by February 15, 2016, which would govern the Consolidated District from the date of entry by this Court until the Consolidated District achieves unitary status.

2. In the months since the Court approved the 2015-2016 order, the United States requested and the Consolidated District provided information regarding various aspects of

the Consolidated District's operations including student assignment, faculty and staff, and facilities. The United States also conducted site visits to the Consolidated District on December 14–15, 2015 and January 5, 2016, which included interviews with district and school administrators and an evaluation of the Consolidated District's facilities.

3. From January 28 to February 3, 2016, the Parties met by telephonic conference to begin negotiations. From February 5–11, 2016, the Parties exchanged drafts of the proposed desegregation order and continued negotiations.

4. The Parties are optimistic that they will come to agreement on the terms of a desegregation order governing the Consolidated District, and therefore request the permission of the Court to submit a proposed desegregation order on March 4, 2016, which, if approved, would govern the Consolidated District until unitary status is achieved.

5. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement on a proposed order by March 4, 2016, the Parties will each submit proposed orders that reflect the areas in which agreement was reached and each Party's proposal for the remaining desegregation obligations.

STARKVILLE OKTIBBEHA
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

/s/ John S. Hooks

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, John Hooks, certify that I have this day filed a true and correct copy of the above document with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF System, which caused notice of filing to be served on all registered counsel of record.

Dated: February 12, 2016.

/s/ John S. Hooks