

THE FIGHT FOR COLORED MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD CONTINUES

News Release for the Afro-American, June 29, 1938

In a statement this week, Robert W. Coleman, Manager of the Association for the Handicapped, claimed that the efforts initiated by the Association to get at least one colored member of the School Board are still active. He said: "When the time comes for the Mayor, whoever he may be, to appoint new members of the Board we shall make a more vigorous fight than the last one. Our Association is still anxious for all civic and educational organizations in the city, both colored and white, to join hands with us in this fight. We are anxious to put forward a united effort. We welcome the aid and strength which such organizations have. We feel that all colored citizens should be interested in this most serious question."

Mr. Coleman has surrounded himself with men and women who know the situation and who are now planning the strategic moves to be made. The committee, headed by the Manager, which visited Mayor Howard W. Jackson prior to the last two appointments to the Board, presented a most intelligent argument to His Honor and received from him a most courteous reply. However, the Mayor did not see fit to appoint a colored member.

The terms of three members will expire in 1940. The Association for the Handicapped is not waiting until a few weeks before the appointments are to be made to launch its campaign, but is now working out a line of procedure that will be more effective than any yet tried.

The Association has received letters from City Superintendents in many cities of this country where colored citizens are serving with credit on the Boards of School Commissioners. Letters from colored members of such Boards have also been received. A careful study of these letters will reveal the fact that Baltimore is far behind in its recognition of the colored people. The time has arrived when our people must unite 100% to guarantee the representation due the largest minority group in Baltimore. The time has likewise arrived when we must develop and follow our own leadership with faith and loyalty. The Association will soon launch a campaign in Baltimore to bring about these things.

**THIS LETTER WAS PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR AT THE MEETING
HELD IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, DECEMBER 13, 1937, AND
WAS READ BY MRS. VIVIAN ALLEYNE**

December 12, 1937.

His Honor, Howard W. Jackson
City Hall
Baltimore, Maryland

His Honor:

The Association for the Handicapped (1145 Myrtle Avenue) is herewith presenting to you, the Mayor of our City, arguments in favor of a colored representative on the Baltimore School Board.

1. Racial and religious problems do not arise when all races are given a just and fair chance at positions which vitally affect any one or more of the races. The exclusion of colored citizens in the governing and administrative body of our public school system, merely because of color, creates a racial problem which your Honor can solve by appointing a colored representative on the School Board.

2. Such representation would be in line with our form of representative government and our constitutional guarantees, and the inclination to uphold the fundamental principles of democracy. Surely no one could maintain that in choosing members of the Board, there should be exclusion because of color, any more than there should be because of creed.

3. It is an undisputed fact that representation of the colored race will be productive of much good to our community, and will also promote a better understanding between the respective races. One illustration of this point should be sufficient to convince His Honor. There are certain unique problems of Negro life, just as there are unique problems in the life of any other substantial minority.