

"MEMPHIS DAILY APPEAL"

Saturday, July 5, 1873

OUR COLORED SCHOOLS**Meeting of Colored Citizens-Resolutions Passed-
Mr. Slaughter for Superintendent.**

On Wednesday evening, July 2nd, pursuant to a call, the colored citizens met at Zion hall, on Beale street, for the purpose of taking into consideration the wants and necessities of the colored public schools. The meeting was called to order by B.H. McCain, after which he was elected chairman. James Thomas was made secretary.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted unanimously:

We, the colored citizens of Memphis, Tennessee, feel it our duty to give expression to our feeling in regard to what has been done, and also what is now being done for our schools. We are not unmindful of the fact that we have a good and efficient school law which contemplates, in its very wise and benevolent arrangement, the education of the masses to an educational equality that will fit them for the transaction of all ordinary business in life, and make of all who wish to avail themselves of the opportunities thus afforded good and useful citizens

We feel truly grateful for what has been done by our board of education for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of our public schools. We confess, with pride, that more has been done in this direction within the last three months than within the previous three years. We feel it our duty to say something, at this time, that will prove to our fellow citizens and to the world that we are not wholly indifferent to the educational interests of our children. True, matters pertaining to our schools have long worn such a discouraging appearance that many of our best citizens have long looked upon them with distrust. But we are happy to say, of a truth, that owing to changes, as alluded to above, many friends have been made for our colored public schools. Notwithstanding what has been done for the

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improvement of our schools we think there are many other things yet necessary to be done which is essential to the efficient working of our schools. Therefore, Resolved, That our honorable school board be, and is, hereby respectfully requested to give us such suitable school buildings for the ensuing year as will facilitate the labor of both teachers and pupils, and thereby render efficient the work of both.

Resolved, That in view of the fact that white teachers in our schools have failed so utterly for the last two years, and as we believe that their educational training is calculated to render them unfit for positions in our schools, therefore we would most respectfully ask that the services of those teachers be dispensed with.

Resolved, That in view of the fact that we are proscribed by law to separate schools for our children, upon the presumption of "inferiority," we respectfully ask that we may have the benefit in full, and that every teacher, from principal down, be elected from the proscribed class.

Resolved, That, for the purpose of rendering every assistance to the board deemed necessary for the purpose of procuring said teachers, a committee be appointed by this meeting whose business it shall be to look after the interests of our children in school.

Resolved, That our thanks are due, and are hereby given to Superintendent Slaughter for the uniform kindness ever manifested toward our teachers and children in school and for the interest ever expressed by him to see our schools situated in more suitable buildings. Therefore the continuance of Superintendent Slaughter in his present position will meet the approbation of our colored citizens.

R.H. McCain,
Chairman.

Ed. Shaw
C.C. Dickerson
J.A. Thompson
Committee

James Thomas, Secretary.