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Fwd: 50th Anniversary of Courage

1 message

Jan Thompson <jan.thompson@scurry-rosser.com>

Fri, Mar 20, 2015 at 9:00 AM

To: Rhonda Porter <rhonda.porter@scurry-rosser.com>, Jenita Taliaferro <jenita.taliaferro@scurry-rosser.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <BillCalhoun11@aol.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 4:08 PM

Subject: 50th Anniversary of Courage

To: scurry-rosser.isd@scurry-rosser.com

To The Board Members of SRISD

Dear Honorable Members:

At the funeral of Mr. Albert Davis, I recalled how 50 years ago this September, Scurry-Rosser ISD made the courageous decision to implement a plan to combine its schools and integrate its students.

Prior to this decision, black students in Rosser attended a separate elementary school. High school students from Rosser attended high school in Kaufman.

As junior who had spent 2 years at the high school in Kaufman, I was very disappointed to learn about the decision from my father. He and other parents had were briefed by school administrators about the decision. I recall that summer when Mr. Davis and another SR administrator came to our house in Rosser to share the plan with my father.

Mr. Davis' death was the first time in years that I had focused on the decision made by the S-R ISD Board and how courageous it was at the ^{time} ~~to~~. After all, the plan was to be executed at a time when so much violence was taking place across the country.

Yet, the leaders in our community felt the need to get out front of the issue to avoid violence. The made the right decision.

Students both black and white were anxious in those early days. Yet, 50 years later it seems such a small issue when compared to the events we face today. It was so good to see some of my classmates especially given it had almost 50 years since we last saw each other.

I hope that you as board members are proud of the decision made by your predecessors. Are you planning anything to commemorate this courageous and historic decision?

Best regards,

Billy Calhoun '67