

Official Resolution

Brevard Public Schools' Recognition of the Unjust Firing and Accomplishments of Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore

A RESOLUTION OF THE BREVARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD TO RECOGNIZE AND ACKNOWLEDGE THE UNJUST FIRING OF HARRY T. AND HARRIETTE V. MOORE AND IMPLEMENT SCHOOL CURRICULUM, INCLUDING EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS TO EDUCATE ALL BREVARD PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MOORE'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND TO MEET THE REQUIRED INTENT OF FLORIDA STATUTE 1003.42(2)(H) AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Harry Tyson Moore was a Florida native and became a resident of Brevard County in 1925;

WHEREAS, Harry T. Moore was an educator hired by the Brevard County School Board in 1925 to teach at Cocoa's only Black elementary school and was promoted to the principal of the Titusville Colored School in 1927; and

WHEREAS, Harry T. Moore is remembered as a teacher who taught not only required academic subjects to Brevard County's Black student population, but also taught the importance of voting, Black History, and current events; and

WHEREAS, Harry T. Moore is remembered as a principal who was patient, unobtrusive and had high expectations of his students; and

WHEREAS, Harriette Vyda Moore was an educator hired by the Brevard County School Board in 1928 and began teaching first grade at Mims Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Harriette V. Moore is remembered as a native of Brevard County, born and raised in Mims, and a caring teacher; and

WHEREAS, Harriette V. Moore courageously traveled highways and backroads of Florida with Harry and was a vital contributor to their campaign's movement to improve the lives of and attain equal justice and opportunity for Florida's Black citizens, Brevard County's Black educators and students, and

WHEREAS, in 1934, Harry T. Moore organized the Brevard County Branch of the National Association for the Advancement for Colored People (NAACP) and in 1941 organized the Florida State Conference of NAACP Branches and later served as its president; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, Harry T. Moore along with the all-Black Florida State Teacher's Association and NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall filed a lawsuit to equalize Black and white teacher salaries that inspired other federal lawsuits in Florida leading to the equalization of teacher salaries; and

WHEREAS, Harry T. Moore personally investigated all lynchings which occurred in Florida after 1943; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, Harry T. Moore co-founded the Progressive Voter's League, which helped register 116,000 Black Floridians to vote and create a challenge to the status quo; and

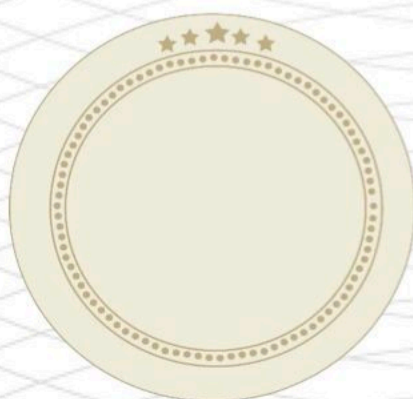
WHEREAS, Harry T. Moore had received warnings to cease his NAACP activism under threat of losing his job and that of his wife; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore were not offered contracts for the next school year by the Brevard Public School Board due to their political activism and Jim Crow practices; and

WHEREAS, on Christmas Night 1951, Harry T. Moore was killed, and his wife Harriette was fatally injured when a bomb exploded under their Mims home with Harriette dying of her injuries 9 (nine) days later; and

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 1003.42. (2)(h) requires the instruction of history, culture, experiences and contributions of African Americans in all Florida school districts to include "the history of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of African Americans to society."

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Brevard County Public School Board publicly acknowledges the unjust act of refusing to renew Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore's teaching contracts by the serving School Board of 1946, and will forever recognize the Moores for their outstanding service and significant contributions as noted above to the Brevard County School District, State of Florida and the nation as educators, civil rights activists and martyrs of the modern civil rights movement through posthumously recognizing the Moores as Brevard Public Schools Teachers Emeritus and will implement a social studies curriculum for elementary and secondary students titled THE HARRY T. AND HARRIETTE V. MOORE LEGACY CURRICULUM beginning with the 2021-2022 school year and a field trip, pending funding and a relaxation of COVID 19 restrictions, to the Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center for all students in 8th grade and that this acknowledgement shall be in a public forum and recorded for posterity.



PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of February, 2021.

Misty Belford, Board Chair