May 19, 2003

This board wants to go on record concerning a recent event in our community. We watched news reports concerning a racially segregated prom involving students from one of our neighboring counties. While the prom had nothing to do with the Muscogee County School System, we were, nevertheless, dismayed about the event and especially about the fact that the prom was held here in Columbus. For that reason, Columbus, Georgia was displayed prominently across the television screen to a nationwide audience while the event was discussed on a particular television program.

Because our city was, unfortunately, cited in this way, we understand that the Mayor's Office received a number of e-mails, and our own central office received messages indicating that some people believed our school district was involved.

We are taking this opportunity, therefore, to clarify the following:

1. The Muscogee County School District was not involved in any way at all with the recent prom that was reported as a racially segregated event for white students only.
2. We abhor the idea of racially segregated student activities.
3. In each of our high schools, one school-sponsored prom takes place each year, and all students are included.
4. None of our schools would even consider sponsoring a racially-segregated prom.
5. Further, the Muscogee County School District has policies that prevent discrimination on the basis of race, and we expect those policies to be followed in all instances.

All nine board members and the superintendent concur in this statement, and we would like it, in written form, to be attached to the minutes of this meeting.