

802 Cedar Road
Schwenksville, PA 19473
Nov. 19, 2016

Subject: Brown v. Board of Education Mural

Dear Sirs and Mesdames,

History is made by individuals. What better way to honor an historic decision than by honoring the actual persons who fought for and won justice, over the many long years?

After looking at all finalists for the mural destined for the Kansas Capitol, I believe **Wayne Wildcat's entry** honors those real-life individuals explicitly and with the best scenic conceptions, on locations where history took place. His concept is large and inclusive. It offers a concise pictographic historical education, just what we want our children and visitors at the Capitol to take away with them. If he needs more wall to illustrate the hard-won stages in this victory, please find more walls.

I feel a personal gratitude to integrated schools in Kansas.

From 1904 to 1919, my grandmother Lula Preston and siblings attended an integrated one-room school in Rooks County. African-Americans from Nicodemus who had settled in Rooks, German, Czech, Jewish and French immigrants made District #84 "Mt. Pleasant" an unusually ethnically diverse school. As Clerk, Lula's father W.W. Preston hand-wrote annual school reports for many years. He was followed by Mr. D.J. Green, African-American parent of Annie and Hazel Green. Mr. Green's handwriting was even more beautiful than my great-grandfather's. My grandmother and her two sisters graduated from Stockton high school along with the Misses Green and other African-American schoolmates. Lula taught for four years in Rooks County, along with her sisters.

Without doubt, Lula Preston Ford's early education fostered not just tolerance but a predisposition to kindness, friendship and justice in her descendants. I am grateful that Kansas will honor the tradition of educational justice and fairness with a mural at the Capitol. I hope that real people, not mythologized place-holders will be depicted in this worthy historical art.

Sincerely,

Marcia McMullen Clouser
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B.A. University of Kansas
Ph.D. University of Texas at Austin

Capitol Preservation Committee

Date: 11-29-16

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