

People Who Care v. Rockford Board of Education
Panel Discussion June 7, 2022

I. Lead up to the liability finding

- a. Who are “People Who Care” and why was the group formed?
- b. *People Who Care v. Rockford Board of Education* filed May 11, 1989
 - i. Allegations
 - ii. Relief sought
- c. Interim Order – July 7, 1989
- d. Second Amended Complaint – November 9, 1989
- e. Second Interim Order – April 24, 1991
- f. Disputes regarding the Second Interim Order and Seventh Circuit opinion regarding same – April 22, 1992
 - *People Who Care v. Rockford Bd. of Educ. Sch. Dist. No. 205*, 961 F.2d 1335 (7th Cir. 1992)
- g. District Judge refers case to Magistrate Judge Mahoney – June 29, 1992
- h. Judge Mahoney presides over permanent injunction hearing – April 2, 1993 - May 13, 1993
- i. Dr. Eubanks is appointed Special Master – May 5, 1993
- j. Judge Mahoney issues his Report and Recommendation – November 3, 1993
- k. Judge Roszkowski issues order substantially upholding the Report and Recommendation – February 18, 1994
 - *People Who Care v. Rockford Bd. Of Educ., Sch. Dist. No. 205*, 851 F. Supp. 905 (N.D. Ill. 1994)

II. Comprehensive Remedial Order

- a. All parties consent to Magistrate Judge Mahoney presiding over the remedial phase of the litigation with power to enter final judgment
- b. Comprehensive Remedial Order (“CRO”) – issued in three parts beginning January 26, 1996
- c. Financing issues

III. Seventh Circuit opinions & implementation of the CRO

- a. A number of the measures contained in the CRO were not challenged
- b. Seventh Circuit opinion – April 15, 1997: Affirmed in part and reversed in part the CRO
 - *People Who Care v. Rockford Bd. of Educ., Sch. Dist. No. 205*, 111 F.3d 528 (7th Cir. 1997)
- c. Seventh Circuit opinion – September 4, 1998: Magistrate Judge should “bend every effort to winding up school litigation and returning the operation of the schools to the local school authorities.”
 - *People Who Care v. Rockford Bd. of Educ., Sch. Dist. No. 205*, 153 F.3d 834 (7th Cir. 1998)
- d. Seventh Circuit opinion – March 19, 1999: School district’s challenges denied. Compliance should be achieved, and the decree dissolved. To that end the Board should submit a plan to the magistrate judge for winding up the litigation.
 - *People Who Care v. Rockford Bd. of Educ., Sch. Dist. No. 205*, 171 F.3d 1083 (7th Cir. 1999)
- e. On October 15, 1999, the Board moves to dissolve the Injunction effective June 30, 2002. Judge Mahoney agreed to relax some provisions of the decree but ruled that others must continue for at least another six years. The Board appealed.
- f. Seventh Circuit opinion – April 18, 2001: Court orders that Rockford has succeeded in desegregating its schools and that the School Board’s motion to dissolve the injunction effective June 30, 2002, shall be granted.
 - *People Who Care v. Rockford Bd. of Educ., Sch. Dist. 205*, 246 F.3d 1073 (7th Cir. 2001)
- g. June 28, 2002 – Judge Mahoney dissolves the permanent injunction, orders that the District is declared to be totally unitary with full control of the Rockford School District returned to the Board of Education effective June 30, 2002 and the case is dismissed with prejudice.