

Correspondence Routing Referral

GREAT KIDS
GREAT SCHOOLS

CRR #3210

Dr. Andrés A. Alonso
Chief Executive Officer
Baltimore City Public Schools

To: Jim Brennan

Date: 08/18/10

Copy: Mike Pitroff, Michael Sarbanes

Correspondence From: Thomas Upson Date of Correspondence: 07/30/10

Subject: Letter from Thomas Upson regarding his great-grandfather, John Nelson McJilton being included on the City Schools website

Action Requested

✓	1. Please draft a response for the CEO's signature.
	2. Please respond in writing over your signature with a copy of your response to the CEO.
	3. Other:
✓	→ <u>TIME SENSITIVE REQUEST</u> ← Please respond to the CEO by: <u>08/23/10</u>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Please return this referral to Nicole Mullins and Jim Brennan with your response.

For responses that require the CEO's signature, please label electronic file with the same number as the CRR# and add draft (Ex. CRR# XXXX Draft) and email back with original referral to the CEO's Correspondence Mailbox.

Sender: Nicole Mullins, room 405 - 410-396-8803

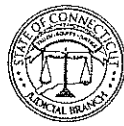
✓ Delivered by Nicole _____ ✓ Placed in Mailbox: _____ ✓ e-mailed: _____ ✓ Faxed: _____

Date Closed: _____

If the attached correspondence does not belong to you, kindly inform Nicole within 24 hours.

Thank you for your prompt attention.

Jim - ORR (2)
M. Pitroff
M. Sarbanes



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT

2010 AUG -6 A 12: 54

CHAMBERS OF
THOMAS F. UPSON
JUDGE

OFFICE OF THE CEO
CITY SCHOOLS

July 30, 2010

Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Baltimore City Public Schools
200 East North Avenue, Rm 405
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: JOHN NELSON MCJILTON
Superintendent of Public Instruction Baltimore City Public Schools 1866 to 1868
Treasurer of Board of School Commissioners 1849 to 1866

Dear Dr. Alonso:

Please be advised that my great-great grandfather, John Nelson McJilton, was elected a teacher of Male School #1 (Fayette and Greene Streets) from 1835 to 1839. In 1845, he was elected a member of the Board of School Commissioners, and in 1849, he was elected treasurer of the board of school commissioners through 1866, when he was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction.

As treasurer for nearly 20 years, he not only managed the financial affairs of the schools, but also the general supervision of said schools. In 1852, he co-compiled *High School Literature*. In 1856, he compiled the *Maryland Primary Arithmetic* and the *Maryland Primary Grammar* in 1857.

I have enclosed an article from the *Maryland Historical Magazine* dated 1987, whereby the writer explains on pages 309 through 311 that McJilton established two schools for African-American children in 1866 and 1867; however, the City Register refused to pay any bills for said schools. McJilton defended his decision; however, for a variety of reasons, he fell in disfavor with the School Commissioners in 1867, and he was removed from office, to take effect on January 31, 1868.

The reason I explain all this to you is that based on the *Maryland Historical Magazine* article, enclosed, for over 27 years, McJilton seemed to be one of the guiding lights of the Baltimore City School system. The history that is mentioned on your website does NOT include him as the first Superintendent of Schools, instead there is a negative reference to Superintendent McJilton that "steps were taken to remove Superintendent M'Jilton from office." I am seeking that the negative reference to my ancestor be eliminated from your website history and that he be included as the First Superintendent of Schools, as indeed, he was.

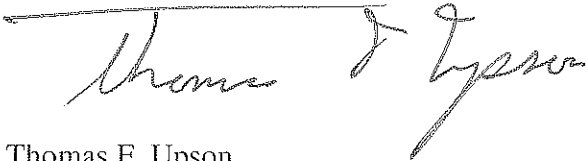
Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.
July 30, 2010
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I am coming to Baltimore on Friday, November 12, 2010 for the day, and I have a framed copy of Reverend McJilton's portrait, which I would like to present to you on behalf of Baltimore city schools, to be hung in an appropriate setting.

I am also informing, in writing all of the existing school board members, as well as any other person you think necessary to have McJilton's name included as the first superintendent, as well as permission to donate the framed copy of his portrait.

I hope to hear from you in the very near future. The only reason that I am seeking proper recognition for my ancestor is because of this excellent article, a copy of which I enclose, along with two other short biographies.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas F. Upson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below a horizontal line.

Thomas F. Upson

TFU:csd

Enclosures

cc with enclosures: All school board members

Thomas F. Upson, 210 Southwest Road, Waterbury, CT 06708

Business phone: 203-591-2328

Home phone 203-753-1193