

METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY INPUT MEETING COMMENTS

Location: I.T. Creswell Arts Magnet Middle Prep

3500 John Mallette Drive

Nashville, TN 37218

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

February 18, 2014

1. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

- Better understanding of Board Members.
- Duplication of services/positions, i.e., special assistant to the director of schools for communications; communications director and government liaison \$380,000 in salaries all focus on communication.
- 120 day employees.
- Student services houses 21+ individuals designated to communicate with families & communities (duplication of services).
- Do not outsource bus drivers.
- Are schools cleaner and better after outsourcing janitors?

2. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Lack of transparency of the communication for this meeting.
- How parents are involved in decisions that will affect their children and the way we are told about decisions.
- Better at targeted parental outreach:
 - Parents need a call out notification system
 - E-blast
 - Text messages
 - Paper copies

3. HUMAN CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

- MNPS needs more effective PD for new, young teachers.
- I think PD in the district should be more autonomous – at the school level. Diversity of schools across district with different student populations calls for different PD – not a centralized PD structure.

4. EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

- Compliance issues with IEPs and manifestation hearings.
- Intersession courses offered should always include children on IEPs in addition to children that may need on a subject during the break time.
- Providing the same education to all students.
- Better educate parents on the availability of IEP and on the process.
- The decision to make Bordeaux & Ross the ONLY Pre-K schools in Nashville??
- Would like to see annual Pre-K through highered P-20 report.
- Track college graduates (4ys + 2 yr) from each MNPS high school, 6 years + 3 years after graduating (National Student Clearinghouse).
- Would allow MNPS to look at quality of HS & HS feeder pattern in preparing students for college.

5. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- I see many areas where resources are being wasted.
- Much greater transparency around spending per school. Even among schools of same tier (E, MS, HS), and same demographics (high FRL, etc.) per pupil spending varies dramatically.
- Annual per school spending report, tracked to school level. Need a way to apportion capital spending.
- Allow all children to participate in sports without cutting due to certain sports are not paid events.
- The district needs to look at ROI (return on investment) of different school types. Per pupil spending and quality; e.g., if charter schools are educating high FRL populations at a very high level, at \$9,200 per pupil (which is less than many district schools, what does this tell vs. as a value proposition?).

6. FACILITIES USE AND MANAGEMENT

- I have two children at Bordeaux, and I was concerned about the parking and the leaks in the building.
- Some area schools are not serviced as quickly as others.
- Need appropriate parking.
- Monitoring traffic flow/need light or traffic control to allow students to school on time.
- Inequity of resources in all schools.

7. NUTRITION SERVICES

- The quality of the food.
- The acceptance of credit cards online.
- Need ability to pay/monitor food online (parental controls).
- Improve healthy choices – salad bar, farm fresh.
- Improve healthy choices and quality.

8. COMPUTERS AND TECHNOLOGY

- Technology major concern with new testing policy.
- Over 50% of district (F&R) without technology (I echo this problem) +1.

9. PURCHASING AND WAREHOUSING

- Utilization of paid contractors when the services exist in the community free of charge.
- Better utilization of minority businesses.

10. SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Bordeaux's pick up and drop off system, parking, etc.
- The poor process of removing violent students (ELEM).
- Zero tolerance unequally administered.
- I echo this (zero tolerance comment) +1 among African American males and other students.

11. TRANSPORTATION

- Communities unable to participate due to lack of transportation and central locations.
- Why decide to transport Pre-K students next year if you have not done it in previous years?
- Simply important and needed.
- Many parents are not able to visit schools or miss work due to financial issues and transportation.

12. IMPACT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

- The charter schools appear to be the better schools in the district.
- Charter schools drain our best students from our general schools.
- Only judge schools by academic impact.
- Limit charter schools in close knit communities; they pull from our other schools.
- Would like to see an MNPS report of mid-year charter “leavers” and how they score on TCAP/TVASS.
- Many charter schools put low performing students out before TCAP testing.
 - Where is the data, comprehensive data for all schools, which proves this?
- All schools should be to the level that would not require to establish charter schools. When you establish charters, it impacts the bottom line (\$) for supporting traditional schools.
- MNPS needs to decide if charters are part of the district or not.
 1. Charter school parents are Nashville taxpayers too.
 2. Charter students attend tuition free.
 3. Charter school test results count as part of the district’s results.

So if the answer is “yes” then I hope they would treat public charters better and as part of the district (facilities planning, capital \$\$ allocation, PD, HR, resources, etc.).