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**Disparities in Educational Outcomes Task Force**

**October 20, 2015**

**Notes Summary**

**Welcome and reminders**

* The notes for each meeting are posted on the Knox County Schools’ web site.
* The DEO committee is continuing to work on potential solutions to challenges identified in the data and through community feedback.
* Committee members are encouraged to attend meetings on a regular basis but it is understandable that not every meeting can be attended by all on the committee.

**Community Forum:**

* Confirmed date: December 1, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
* Purpose:
	+ Why do we want people to come?
	+ What is community forum about?
	+ Use goals of meeting to convey purpose.
	+ Share data and what we have heard already.
* Location TBD:
	+ Thought is to have forum at a church because the church is a bridge to the community.
		- Mt. Calvary Church is not available.
		- Will check availability with Overcoming Believers Church.
	+ Austin-East High School has an auditorium and classrooms nearby for break-out sessions. Use as back-up location.
* Proposed format:
	+ Whole group – The presentation must be concise and precise.
	+ Bulk of time should be in small group sessions.
	+ Members from Leadership Knoxville will facilitate sessions.
	+ Participants should be given time to tell their stories, be heard, and offer solutions.
	+ Large group share out at the end.
	+ Must be respectful of people’s time.
	+ Focus of community forum will be solution-seeking.
		- Some people want to be problem-solvers even though they have not had experiences with discipline issues.
		- The facilitators will have broad-based question prompts.
	+ Interpreters
		- Spanish
		- Kirundi
	+ Students
		- Can participate with adults or can participate with other students.
		- Some youth will not speak candidly if sitting with adults.
	+ Advertisement
		- How will this community forum be advertised? Why do we want people to come? What is community forum about?
		- Information to be sent to churches
		- Sending information home from school
		- School Messenger
	+ Public Transportation
		- Do we need to provide free transportation?
			* KAT bus?
			* School bus from centralized locations?
		- Hard to predict need.
		- If transportation is needed, contact whom?
	+ Food/Refreshments:
		- Knox County Sheriff’s Department, Knoxville Police Department, and the City of Knoxville volunteered to provide some refreshments.
	+ Other Assistance
		- TN Promise students need service hours and can act as guides.
		- The Boys/Girls Club might be able to help with child care.
	+ Concerns to be considered
		- The community forum offers a limited amount of time (1½ hours) to accomplish all of the identified goals. Maybe participants should be heard and solutions considered at a later date?
		- Members cautioned not to jump to solutions too fast.
		- Give participants time to put solutions on paper.
	+ Outcomes of Community Forum
		- People have a chance to be heard.
		- People have a chance to propose solutions to problems.
		- Solutions that people propose will be considered/incorporated into the action plan.
		- Problems are not just school-related and law/justice problems. Parents have a vested interested in these issues and a role to play.
		- The DEO task force is working on behalf of parents and students.
		- A common complaint is that no one is listening. This will give the community an opportunity to be heard.
		- The feedback gathered at the community forum should be shared on the KCS website.
		- Groups will gain insights in order to formulate solutions.
		- Participants want to offer solutions. It is empowering to have their voices heard and some can see solutions in their stories.

**Knox County Schools personnel**

* + Principal input will be solicited at the PreK-12 principals meeting in October. Information will be brought to the next DEO work session.
	+ A teacher forum to be scheduled after the Winter Holidays.
	+ Need the perspectives and thoughts from all stakeholders.

**Remainder of meeting** spent working in the affinity groups (Practices, Programs, Training, Personnel).

**Next Meeting:**

* The next DEO task force meeting will be Tuesday, January 26, 4:00 p.m.