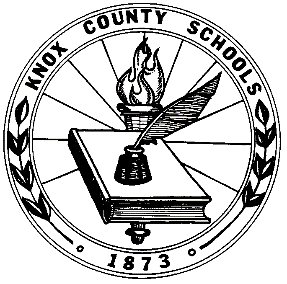
****

**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.