



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

Parents, Teachers and Others
May 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Active Citizens for Education (ACE) is seeking grass roots input from interested parents, teachers and others regarding the current effectiveness and future direction of MMSD curriculum, instruction, programs, services, leadership and operations. ACE believes the information, experiences and suggestions from those people who are living and working on a day-to-day basis with the school system are in the best position to assist in developing direction and strategies for future change and development. Ace is sensitive to the concerns people have for exposure of their concerns and ideas to others and pledges to honor the confidentiality of those sensitivities. ACE needs help in formulating processes that can have an impact on the school system for improved effectiveness and performance.

Nominate yourself or others to participate in this first discussion meeting by contacting ACE as indicated below.

The following are proposed purposes, questions and paradigms for round table discussions with parents, teachers and others.

- I. Purposes for discussion:
 1. Engage parents, teachers and others in issues identification and suggestions/strategies for solutions
 2. Involve parents, teachers and others from schools at each level (elementary, middle and high)
 3. Focus discussions on building level curriculum, instruction, programs, services, and operations
 4. Focus discussions on building level leadership and development of administrators and teachers

5. Focus discussions on building level relationships with central administration and the teachers union

II. Discussion questions:

1. What are the challenges and opportunities?
2. What are the key issues that could be identified and generally defined?
3. What are the barriers and impediments to resolution of identified issues?
4. What are the possible next steps toward resolution of issues identified?
5. What are the possible resources of people, information and organizations to access for assistance in working with the identified issues?

III. Paradigms underlying the issues to consider:

1. Partnerships and collaboration vs. control
2. Centralized vs. local controls
3. Leadership and/or management
4. Autocratic vs. democratic processes and climate
5. Communications/networks vs. lack of information and sharing

IV. Other thoughts and/or questions:

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