



Community Area Advisory Meeting

East Montgomery School

October 18, 2010

COMPILED RESULTS

What do you expect from the Montgomery County School System?

1. Expectations: Invest not only in the football team, there are more sports teams at high school level that are real good, such as soccer
2. Fair and equitable treatment of all students consistently
3. Close the Academic Achievement Gap between black/white students
4. Engaging opportunities to advance students
5. To support the local school administrations as they strive to have schools conducive to learning
6. 9th grade academy to help with transition
7. MLA – does not need to be a reward for students – more structure & results that are measurable
8. Promote college
9. Take the strategic plan and develop a business plan w/objectives goals and milestones
10. Mission, vision, strategic plan – Business plan
11. Business plan key to Closing the Achievement Gap
12. Inform parents through newsletter, covering county level issues i.e. Budget, cuts. Where money is going/where money is needed
13. How is MLA a transition school? What programs are in place there to change the students so they may return to “regular schools”?
14. Invest the little money MCS is getting on schools, teachers’ salaries, incentives, teacher materials, tutors, and transportation
15. Open and honest conversations
16. Closing the Gap and increasing graduation rates
17. Cut the fat
18. Find ways to get enough personnel and materials to the students so that our mission of 21st Century Learning can be realized
19. That our children are safe at school
20. Teachers need to communicate more with parents
21. Provide a quality education where students are college ready or trade school ready
22. Parent concern: we used to have summer camps – can we bring back? Great for children
23. Summer enrichment math camps, science camps
24. Prepare students for college and high learning – not just to pass EOCs & EOGs
25. More exposure to careers “or what a child will be interested in” in the future --“Career Days”
26. Safety
27. Enrichment opportunities for kids based on their abilities
28. Spanish translator at meetings
29. Updated textbooks! My son doesn’t have math books to bring home to reinforce his learning

30. Arts programs – we need more programs available for students

What do you expect from me, Dale Ellis, the Superintendent of Montgomery County Schools?

1. To be more exact on the school policies
2. Stick to what has been said in meetings and parent conferences
3. We need more qualified tutors
4. Closer check on where money is wasted, and are “all” our teachers using the technology they have been trained for in. Need to ensure every classroom and all curriculum materials are being used. We paid for them; we expect them to use the resources.
5. Early college
6. Take a closer look at athletic funding
7. Check into grants
8. It would be good to have a meeting every month in each classroom with students and parents in all grades K-12
9. Structure at the MLA
10. To ensure that all MCS children are treated with dignity and respect.
11. All children have equal opportunities at quality education
12. Family/community involvement specifically targeted to Hispanic population, include special meeting times/days
13. Closing the Gap and increasing graduation rates
14. Connect w/MCC more
15. Early college opportunities
16. Have an open ear
17. More money for Athletics
18. Continue to be proactive
19. Strive for excellence
20. Decrease truancy rate
21. Visibility and community engagement
22. Hold your staff (instructional and administrative) to the highest professional and ethical standards, and ensure they are all focused primarily on the well-being of our students and their excellent education.
23. Mediocrity is not an option!

Parent Training

1. Homework issues
2. After school programs
3. Attendance policy varies among levels, elementary, middle, and high schools
4. After school tutoring
5. Sharing and promoting our More at Four program
6. Summer programs – reading/math/writing/technology
7. NCWISE – parent features are not in use
8. More communication between parent and teachers at the high school level, no parent should find out that the child is failing at report card time
9. We need to actively encourage & facilitate deeper involvement of our families, especially Hispanic, with our schools, rather than just letting it happen. We need an active community/school advocacy group, perhaps separate from individual PTOs. They would bring

parents' questions and comments and would have an active relationship w/school leaders and teachers

10. Training in school policies
11. Arts programs
12. Resources for tutoring and homework helps
13. The option to purchase textbooks for reinforcement
14. Tutoring opportunities – afterschool, teachers rotate
15. More prep for college i.e....study skills
16. How to get more parents involved?
17. Better ways to notify parents of information i.e. text message
18. More information about what my child is studying in each class. And how I can contribute
19. Lack of community awareness about programs the schools offer – therefore, lack of community involvement
20. What does my child need to graduate from high school?
21. What does my child need to graduate? How does he/she follow a pathway?
22. Basic school knowledge for the Hispanic parents
23. How do I help my teen out of gangs and gang activity? Make good choices
24. How are decisions made about implementing new modules, programs etc.? Do we research, then compare to what we already have, or do we just buy them because they sound good?
25. Substance abuse policy; selling, using illegal drugs. What are the penalties? Is there zero tolerance?
26. Lunch policy - by 3rd lunch running out of the food kids wants, and the nutritional value of the food offered. A la carte salad bar?

Issues Bin

MLA

- Expectations should be same as other schools
- Percentage of students proficient on EOGs/EOCs
- Percentage of students going on to college

Athletics

- What does school system provide?
- Athletic boosters now have to provide the necessities.