

Leadership Summit on Education

On August 21, 2018, Leadership Montgomery hosted the Leadership Summit on Education. Over 150 leaders from the community came together to discuss short-term and long-term action plans in 19 roundtable groups. Below are the bullet points from the suggested action plans.

Short Term Action Plans:

- **(Suggested the most) Attend School Board meetings**
- Non-traditional funding such as school/business partnerships with strategy and intention – state tested grades
- Have trust and transparency
- Have a video library: an instructional coach for best practices, videoing teachers doing best practices, etc., and research library of effective alternative educational strategies
- Churches can adopt student families and be actively engaged
- Determine specific needs of the schools
- Request an invitation to visit schools, observe the class room, etc.
- Engage the student parents to know and understand school conditions and needs
- Use social media, local media, etc., to communicate resources available and the needs the schools
- Encourage school field trips to unusual locations such as Hyundai, hospitals, banks, etc.
- School Board of Education members should visit community organizations
- In programs such as “Back Pack Food Program”, include a note with each back pack to let the students know someone in their community cares about them
- Have the State Superintendent of MPS do a “State of the School System” address annually
- Assessment, training, and incentives for the school leaders: principles
- Share this event’s information with other organizations
- Focus on AdvancED accreditation
- Change the narrative to the students: WE have failed them, not that THEY are failing. Create positive messaging about moving forward and highlight and promote successes
- Engage Home Owners’ Associations and Parent Teacher Associations to know how to encourage and aid students in their communities
- Attend school functions at your neighborhood school- even if you do not have a student there
- Volunteer to be a “parent liaison” at your neighborhood school
- Self-assess: What do I have to give? Time, financial resources, organizing groups of people, etc., and create an action based on how you can help- every positive action helps
- Call the school principals directly and ask them how you, or someone you know, could be an asset
- Ask your place of employment about actionable activities: Possibly make volunteering in community schools (maybe 2 hours a month) part of job duties
- Establish a resource committee for each district board member: this committee would recruit businesses and churches to partner to help with the schools in that district

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Long Term Action Plans:

- **(Suggested the most) VOTE in school board elections**
- Engage in social/emotional learning and partnerships
- Have school board training
- Consider Parent Advocacy
- Volunteer in your specific expertise- Go to local school and talk to students about your vocation
- Communication: Make it ongoing and consistent
- Find or create adequate funding for sustainable growth
- Connect with parents of students
- Reinstate the Partners in Education Program
- Have an individual Alumni Association for every school (i.e. Sidney Lanier High School Alumni Association)
- Establish a Parent Council at each school
- Create Adopt-A-School programs (adopted by businesses and Faith-based organizations for continual involvement)
- Revamp the public relations surrounding MPS- change the perception to positivity
- Like minded vocational clusters developing helpful strategies
- Have the multiple school options be seen as equally effective: Charter, Magnet, Traditional, Vocational
- Increase academic achievement by having community stakeholders offering services to schools
- Have an accountability system in place so we can monitor the success or failure of new programs and offerings to know which to change, grow, or dismiss
- Mentorship programs within the schools: connecting students with leaders in vocations of interest
- Have a garden at every school for the students to tend
- Tax increases with specific spending plans
- Develop and implement a 3 year strategic plan: include funding, facilities, program, and talent
- The school population needs to reflect the demographics of the community
- Create Legislation to increase property taxes to help fund schools and be able to hire transformational leaders
- Cash = change; Change = cash
- Find an avenue to keep the public informed of student progress: i.e. successes / needs
- Coordinate services and resources for a more concerted effort to give students uniforms, back packs, food, supplies, etc.
- Pair corporate sponsors with schools
- Focus on teacher retention: possibilities include utility waivers, rent discounts, incentives, have a mentor for the teacher
- Personally serve as a conduit of information to your job or business about the state of schools and how to be a help rather than a hindrance
- Be a MEGAPHONE/Advocate! Ask what are we doing right? What do we need to change?
- Get student and community volunteers to serve as representatives for their school
- Change infrastructure to enable volunteers to be effective
- Once you are involved- stay involved. Schools should not be surprised when a commitment is followed through!