

Town Hall Meetings That Work for School Boards





QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

- Dianne Macaulay
 - Trustee
- Don Falk
 - Superintendent
- Bruce Buruma
 - Community Relations

- Gary Bartlett
 - Board Chair
- Barry Litun
 - Superintendent

District Planning Process

- Accountability Pillar
- District Satisfaction Survey
- Board Mini Retreat
- Town Hall Meeting
- School Admin Input
- Student Town Hall Meeting - *new*
- Board Retreat
- District Education Plan Adopted

Town Hall Meeting

- Purpose:
 - To consult with stakeholders regarding key priorities and specific strategies that should be include in our District Education Plan
 - To gather input on a variety of issues that face the district

Town Hall Meeting

- Process Goals:
 - To ensure that we have a large, representative group in attendance
 - To structure the meeting so that input is significant, meaningful, and of practical use to the district
 - To encourage maximum involvement among meeting participants
 - To include strategies developed at the Town Hall Meeting in our Education Plan

Town Hall Meeting Focus

- District Priorities
- High School Completion
- Values, Mission, Vision
- Nutrition Policy
- Video Surveillance
- School Fees
- Character Education and Citizenship

Logistics

- Facility
- Audio Visual
- Facilitators
- Invitations
- Media
- Event Planning
Timeline



Participants

- Parents
- Staff
- Students
- School Administrators
(*facilitate*)
- Teacher
- Employee Groups
- Community and Partners
- Targeted Representatives
(*based on topic*)
- Trustees and Senior Administration

Facility



- 220 participants capacity
- 22 round tables with 8-9 participants
- Participants assigned tables when they arrive to ensure diversity and balance

Table Package

- Name Tags
- Agenda and Overview of Topics
- Registration Cards
- Feedback Forms
 - Opportunity to review all strategies

Dotmocracy

- Strategies posted around the room
- Participants select priorities
 - Limited number of 'dots'
 - 'Dots' can have weighted value
- Quick tally of results allow sharing of priorities
- All participants e-mailed a complete set of results

Polling Technology

- CompuTouch
- Turning Point Technology
- Poll on the relative strength of priorities
- Results provided at the end of each session
- Provides an equitable, broad voice for all
- Results posted on website



Schedule: 7:00 to 9:30

- Welcome and Introductions
- 3 topics (45 minutes each)
 - Background and pose question
 - Table discussion - School Admin facilitate
 - Prioritize
 - Share
 - Clarify
 - Poll
 - Share Results



Other Identified Strategies

- All discussions are recorded, returned in table envelopes and reviewed to ensure good strategies are still considered

Student Town Hall Meeting

- New Element
 - Connections to Social Studies Program
 - Review District Education Plan
 - Raise the profile and understanding of the work of Trustees
- Authentic part of planning process
- 150 grade 9 students as well as student leaders from 2 high schools

Student Town Hall Meeting

- 2 classroom lessons (preparation)
 - Review role of locally elected government
 - Consider priorities
 - Model Town Hall meeting
- Student Town Hall Meeting
 - Focused on a broad issue
 - Discuss/Share/Prioritize
 - Same general format as Town Hall Meeting

Outcomes

- High level of satisfaction
- Strong participation and efficient process
- District is well regarded relative to consultation process
- Equitable voice to all participants
- District priorities are authentic and defensible
- Focused and intense evening with good results

Challenges

- Consolidation of priorities - similarities among tables
- Ensuring an inclusive process
- Participants may 'wear more than one hat'
- Time challenges



Considerations

- Need for targeted invitations rather than open invite
- Role of Trustees and Senior Administration



Sample Town Hall Meeting

- Background
 - 1 minute
- Table Discussion
 - 6 minutes
- Sharing
 - 4 minutes
- Polling
 - 3 minutes
- Results
 - 1 minute



Sample Town Hall Meeting

- Goal:
 - Highly Responsive and Responsible Jurisdiction
- Outcomes
 - The education system at all levels demonstrates effective working relationships
 - The jurisdiction demonstrates leadership and continuous improvement
- Strategies
 - How do we engage diverse stakeholders to support public education in our jurisdiction and communities?

Questions and Answers

Thank you.

