

PORTSMOUTH SCHOOL BOARD RETREAT AGENDA FOR AUGUST 16, 2017

GOSLING MEADOWS RECREATION CENTER

PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2017

TIME: 4:00 PM

I. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT- 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. (LIGHT REFRESHMENTS)

Board members, administrators, and community members will participate in small group table conversations. A spokesperson will be chosen by the group to take notes and report to the larger group based on the discussion guidelines below:

Introduction

We would like to know about your experiences accessing various programs in the Portsmouth Schools. These programs could be enrichment programs, after school programs, or school trips at all grade levels. This may also include programs occurring during the school day, such as special education, middle school advanced classes, high school honors and advanced placement classes etc. Please take some time to discuss the following questions at your table:

1. Have you come across any roadblocks in accessing programs in Portsmouth Schools? Where and what?
2. When have you felt your access to programs has been limited? Why did you feel this way?
3. Have there been times where you felt your access to programs wasn't limited and doors were opened for you?
4. What are some specific ways access to programs can be improved?
5. Did available opportunities change as you traveled through the Portsmouth School system? Where? How?
6. The School Board has formed a committee to study expanding preschool opportunities for children in Portsmouth. Did you have access to preschool and did your children go to preschool? If not, why? Would you be in favor of a district-provided preschool? What would be important to you to be able to access it?

II. GOALS UPDATE- 5:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. (PIZZA AVAILABLE FOR ALL)

Board members will be provided an update on 2016-2017 Board goals, with discussion focused on current data related to opportunity and achievement gaps.

III. ACTION PLANNING- 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Specific action steps will be discussed and detailed to achieve short-term and long-term gains in closing gaps of opportunity and achievement. This discussion will include an analysis of current strengths of strategies in place in the Portsmouth Schools and ways to expand them. There will also be a discussion of emerging opportunities and new action steps for 2017-2018, with a plan to monitor progress.