



District of Innovation
Community Meeting
Jan. 22 | 5:30 p.m.
Tupelo Middle School
Civic Auditorium



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 18, 2019

Tupelo Public School District

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TPSD Invites Community To Needs Forum

TUPELO, Miss. — On Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the Middle School Civic Auditorium, the Tupelo Public School District will hold a community meeting to outline the results of the comprehensive needs assessment derived from stakeholder surveys and meetings held the past several months.

The presentation will start at 5:30 p.m., and the public is highly encouraged to attend.

Starting in September, the District of Innovation team, led by superintendent Dr. Rob Picou and Stewart McMillan, met with 14 different groups across the Tupelo community consisting of 177 participants. In addition, 716 people completed the TPSD comprehensive needs assessment survey for a total of 893 participants who offered feedback.

The result of these meetings led to 13 needs following detailed discussion and debate.

“We want to be as transparent as possible throughout this process,” said McMillan, the district’s Innovation Program Facilitator. “It’s imperative we have input from all our stakeholders as we work to continuously improve and provide the best education for all our students.”

The Top 3 prioritized needs are as follows:

1. **Achievement Gap Closure:** Address the achievement gap of underserved students, including students in poverty, EL and SPED, to create targeted programs to meet all needs.
2. **Staffing:** Revisit the staffing structure at the elementary level and class structure with an increase emphasis staff diversity.
3. **Social Emotional Supports:** Increase wrap-around services, utilize trauma informed care, offer more counselors and counseling services and address bullying, conflict resolution and character education.

During the presentation, the public will be privy to all 13 of the identified needs and will be allowed to ask questions related to the District of Innovation process.

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