

Email sent by Ald. Matt Phair to the Education Committee on 10/4/17 and again on 11/6/17

At our meeting in September we talked about the idea of members sending me a list of their top three topics they would like the committee to focus on. I said I would compile and rank the topics and prepare a list for our October meeting as a way to focus the conversation. There was also discussion about taking a step back and reviewing the purpose, charge and collective understanding of what and who the committee is. As I thought about these two parts; priorities/action steps and purpose/charge, I realized the two could conceivably compete against each other and that it may be a bit premature to compile a rank order list of committee priorities. For example, if members would like the committee to be a place for information sharing and MOST and Community School updates only, a discussion about priority action items won't be necessary. Therefore, I would like (and would really appreciate) if you all come to the meeting next Wednesday with thoughts and/or ideas around this set of questions:

1. Who are we?

- What do you want the purpose/scope of this committee to be?
 - A place for information sharing, an oversight body of existing (or new) shared initiatives, a committee that takes proactive action around agreed upon priorities, a combination of those, or something else?
- If you want it to be an action oriented committee, what has kept us from being an effective one so far? Or, are you concerned that it is even possible to be action-oriented given the makeup of the body, etc? What are your concerns?

2. Logistics/dedication

- Is the second Wednesday of the month at 5pm a good date/time for you?
If not, what is?
- What makes you prioritize coming to our meetings?
- Or, perhaps, what leads you to not prioritize being there?
 - What needs to change with the committee so your membership is a priority.

3. Priorities

- If you'd like this body to be action-oriented, what are your priority areas (top three would be good)?
 - Think about whether this body is the appropriate place to work on each of your priority items? Is there another committee, workgroup, or initiative already doing the work?