



Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

Community Circle Report Form

Session #3: How can we address the housing challenges in the Twin Cities?

Sponsoring Organization: Hill Montessori Parent Support Council Date: 4-8-99

Meeting Location: Hill Montessori Number of Participants: 6

Facilitator: Cathy Peterson / Lee Scribe: Steve Sonnabend

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the housing challenges we face in the Twin Cities that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Housing has become very expensive. Rent is expensive also and because of this there has been an increase in the homeless population.

2. Affordable Housing is mis-named and also has stigma attached to it. The word housing is not affordable to most people.

3. People want to choose what people they live with. Neighborhoods also dictates housing prices. The value of a house can double depending on what neighborhood the house is located in.

4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

We are looking at ways to turn dialogue into action. There is concern within the group that we will become more aware of these issues, but become frustrated by inability to do anything about it.

Community Circle Report Form

Session #1: Getting Started

Sponsoring Organization: F.J. Hill Professor: Parent Support Council Date: 3-13-99

Meeting Location: Hill Elementary School Number of Participants: 18

Facilitator: Lee Wadery, Kathy Peterson Scribe: Steve Jones

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about experiences with racism or segregation which your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. Several members mentioned the flight of the middle class from the City to the Suburban rings.

2. Education was brought up. The lawsuit of the NAACP regarding the high concentration of low scores in high-concentrated minority populations

3. Of the group members, there were several members who stated that they were confused by, or didn't understand the racial tension. Those mentioning this also stated they had been struggling to understand.

4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:

Read "What the Research Shows" in preparation for the 2nd meeting.

Community Circle Report Form

Session #2: What are the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities?

Sponsoring Organization: Hill-Montessori Magnet School Date: 3-25-99

Meeting Location: Hill School Number of Participants: 6

Facilitator: Cathy Peterson & Lee Whaley Scribe: Melissa Keen

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the reasons for segregation in the Twin Cities that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. The availability of high-quality education. There is a perception, if not reality, that the inner-city school systems are inferior or ineffective.
2. There is a high "nuisance" concentration in the City. More petty theft and vandalism. More noise and more organized crime.
3. There seems to be a perpetuation of poverty and learned helplessness. If there is no benefit to education - it becomes de-valued. When all you know is poverty and ignorance - there is no motivation for learning.
4. Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:
Read the next section for the next meeting

Community Circle Report Form

Session #4: What can we do about the achievement gap in our public schools?

Sponsoring Organization: Hill Montessori Elementary Date: 4/15/99

Meeting Location: Hill Number of Participants: 2

Facilitator: Lee Wooten, Kathy Peterson Scribe: Steve Sorensen

Please describe two or three main themes or ideas about the achievement gap in our schools that your group discussed today: (1-2 sentences each)

1. How the school is structured makes an impact on how students achieve.

2. Moving away from the neighborhood school has diminished many parents ability to participate with their children's education or volunteer at the school.

3. Commitment to education and investment in education needs to start at birth.

4. **Please use this space to note action ideas, if any, that were mentioned in today's discussion:**

Community Circle Report Form

Session # 5: Making a Difference

Sponsoring Organization: J.J. All Montessori Parent Support Council Date: 4/22/99

Meeting Location: Hill Elementary Number of Participants: 6

Facilitator: Lee Woolery, Kathy Peterson Scribe: Steve Sanna Bend

While there may not be consensus within your group about how to best address some of the challenges discussed, there may be ideas or solutions which have emerged over the last few weeks and are supported by most participants.

1. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *individuals* can take to make a difference?

Continuing to discuss these and other important issues
and demand public forum for open dialogue on them.
To have a voice and to use it.

2. What are two or three of the most powerful steps *groups or organizations* can take to make a difference?

Get information out so that people can know
the issues. Inform people so they can make educated
decisions at the polls and in their lives.

(over)

(Session #5 report form continued)

3. What are two or three of the most powerful steps our community or region can take to make a difference?

Identifying that there is a problem.
Make planned integration a priority
Return to the neighborhood schools - using a more individualized curriculum.

4. What are some of the things participants said they would do differently in the future as a result of being part of this community circle dialogue?

Participate more in community dialogues in the future.