

Montclair's Achievement Gap Advisory Panel Launches Community Sharing Forums in October

All families are invited to share their experiences and insights related to the Achievement Gap in Montclair Public Schools

Achievement Gap Community Sharing Forums for Grades K- 5

Monday, October 13, 6:30 pm
Nishuane School - Auditorium, 32 Cedar Ave.

Achievement Gap Community Sharing Forums for Grades 6-12

Wednesday, October 22, 6:30 pm
Glenfield School - Auditorium, 25 Maple Ave.

[September 16, 2014 - Montclair, New Jersey] Montclair Public Schools' Achievement Gap Advisory Panel (AGAP) announced on Monday night, during its first meeting of the new school year, that it will host a series of fall meetings open to the public to gather information and hear the community's perspective on how to best address the long-standing achievement gap within Montclair Public Schools. The *Community Sharing Forums* are the first public action, since Superintendent Penny MacCormack constituted the independent body of approximately 40 volunteers comprised of concerned parents, academicians, community organizers, and non-profit leaders.

"Multiple achievement gaps have persisted in our community for a very long time and there is no easy fix, but by coming together, listening to each other's experiences, and acknowledging the issues we can create solutions," stated AGAP Chairman Jonathan Simon. "It is imperative that we address this issue together, not in a vacuum or silo, but through the strength of our collective spirit. The AGAP's *Community Sharing Forums* will not be a platform for naming or blaming one policy, one individual or even a group of people. Instead, we plan to amplify the voice of our community by creating an environment where a variety of perspectives and experiences of Montclair residents can be shared and heard."

"I am encouraged and happy to hear of these *Community Sharing Forums*," stated Superintendent Penny MacCormack. "It is an obligation for each of us to understand this issue affecting our students and families, to be part of the process and to fully engage in building solutions. I commend the volunteers of the AGAP who are addressing this issue head on and working so hard in service of our community's future. I hope everyone in the community will prioritize attending these meetings and share their voices."

If you are unable to attend, please send your comments to the AGAP email address:
agapmontclair71@gmail.com<<mailto:agapmontclair71@gmail.com>>

Light refreshments and childcare will be provided for both sessions.

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