



News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

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MNPS Announces Deal with Annenberg Institute

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (Feb. 25, 2009) – Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the regularly schedule Metro Nashville School Board meeting, Director of Schools Dr. Jesse Register announced a new partnership between the school district and the Annenberg Institute for School Reform, as well as some key central office changes.

“The hiring of Annenberg is a major step in the right direction,” said Dr. Register. “Having worked with them for the past three years, I know their capabilities and trust their expertise. The Institute won’t just give us a report; they will work with us to develop a plan to reform this school district. ”

Annenberg Institute is known for assisting in the reform efforts of several urban school districts including Miami, Chicago, and Los Angeles. In working with MNPS, the Institute will review all reports and evaluations of MNPS for past years, including Chamber Report Cards, community reports, and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) District Audit Tool from 2008; take a comprehensive look at school-level practices through as seen by key stakeholders; provide a deeper analysis of some of the key problems identified within the school district; help set priorities; collaborate across the district to develop a strategic plan; and build district and community ownership of problems, solutions, and the strategic plans for implementation.

MNPS signed a six month contract with Annenberg which runs March 1 – August 31. The cost of the contract is \$140,000, which is being funded through a state grant.

More about Annenberg

The mission of Annenberg Institute for School Reform is to develop, share, and act on knowledge that improves the conditions and outcomes of public schooling in America, especially in urban communities. The Institute’s vision is to be a leading catalyst for transforming school districts and their communities into smart education systems -- systems that achieve excellence and equity at scale by combining highly functioning and effective school districts with a comprehensive web of opportunities and supports for children and families. The Institute has assisted urban districts and their partners in analyzing and building their capacity to support higher achievement for all students in more than a dozen cities nationwide. Using their expertise in facilitation, collaboration, consensus-building, data gathering, and analysis, Annenberg Institute staff assist school districts and communities in sharpening their focus, reflecting on strengths and weaknesses, identifying reform agendas

and then developing and implementing strategic plans for achieving important goals that impact teaching and learning. More information can be found at www.annenberginstitute.org.

Central Office Changes

In addition to his announcement of the contract with Annenberg Institute, Dr. Register also announced three changes to the central office. Longtime educators Nancy Meador and Lenna Allen will return to principal positions at Madison Middle and Wharton Elementary schools (respectively) to open fall 2009. Both had been working at the central office in new teacher development.

Fred Carr, a state school improvement consultant and former Hamilton County administrator, will come on board as the Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration and Accountability. John Norris, also a former Hamilton County administrator, will work with the district on a contract basis as a Safe Schools Specialist and Urban Leadership Expert.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

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