



Transition Planning Commission

Contact: Dr. Barbara Prescott
Email: Bupresco1@att.net
Office (901) 682-1471
Cell (901) 340-4517

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Collierville Hosts First Stop for Transition Planning Commission's Listening Tour

The first of several "listening tours" conducted by the Transition Planning Commission for the new Shelby County School system will be held January 10th at Collierville United Methodist Church, 454 West Poplar, from 7-9 p.m.

"There's hardly a more important issue that faces our county than the development of the new unified school system. We want citizens, especially parents, to tell us their concerns and their hopes for the new school system. Our goal is to ensure all children will have the best opportunities for learning," said Commission Chair, Dr. Barbara Prescott.

Listening tours will be conducted in other areas of the county as well. **"It's vital we hear from citizens from all neighborhoods in every part of Shelby County,"** added Dr. Prescott.

The 21-member Transition Planning Commission was mandated by the State of Tennessee last October after an election called for the merger of the Memphis City and Shelby County public school systems.

The commission will take an in-depth look at several aspects of how the new merged school system will operate. The priorities:

- Administrative Structure and Governance
- Education Services and Curriculum
- Personnel and Pension Issues for Teachers and Non-Teaching Staff
- Essential Services-Transportation, Security, Nutrition and Information Technology
- Bonds and Transfer of Assets

The Transition Planning Commission's final report will be submitted to the Tennessee Department of Education by the summer of 2012. It will then be accepted, amended or revised next fall by the 23-member Shelby County School Board.

The new school system will begin joint operations in August or September of 2013. To learn more about Transition Planning Commission and its progress, go to www.shelbycountyttn.gov and click on "Transition Planning Commission."

(End of Release)