



H.O.P.E. General Monthly Meeting
December 10, 2009 9am
Keith Middle School Community Room

Attendance: M. Castro, D. Spencer, J. Neves, K. Scarborough, M. Pires N. Lopez, S. Nobre, C. Frazier, T. Hodgson, P. Tavares, B. Rose, B. Pereira, C. Smiler, J. Paradise, G. Salesman, T. Belliveau, A. Rocha, L. Tavares, E. Barnett, P. Talbot, B. Sullivan, A. Leal-Arruda, J. Pateakos, R. Ribeiro, Jr., B. Ribeiro, B. Barber, J. Berberena, C. Dias, S. Rodrigues, D. Porche, L. Poyant, D. Perkins, D. Provencher, I. Buck, K. Castro, C. Robert.

- ❖ Welcome by Deirdre
 - Shannon grant cut state-wide from \$13 million to \$4.5 million.
 - Education and positive engagement are the keys for our youth. It is important to keep our relationships and collaborative efforts alive, in spite of the lack of funds.
 - Our youth need to think about the consequences of their actions today that will affect their lives tomorrow. (Speaking to the 20+ Citizen Schools' students in attendance.)

- ❖ Dr. Portia Bonner
 - We want our students to reach their fullest potential by giving them every opportunity to excel.
 - Think critically, creatively and outside the box. Be well rounded beyond reading, writing and arithmetic by restoring arts and music into the elementary schools.
 - Build character by giving back to the community and intertwining a piece of their history into the curriculum.
 - Build self confidence by emphasizing personal achievement and high expectations. Learn from failure, be resilient and press on. Know and understand who you are in order to excel.
 - Introduce a Superintendent's Roundtable initiative promoting community conversations to help shape what happens in our schools.

- ❖ Rev. Curtis Dias, Bristol County Sheriff's Office, Reentry
 - Strong Foundation Community Foundation PowerPoint presentation; a community response to illegal guns in the city of New Bedford.
 - Homicide Victims Survivors month is November 20 – December 20, 2009 and this study is dedicated to them.

- How can we stop the gun violence? Early prevention is the answer to urban terrorism for youth ages 9 – 18 years of age. “I’d rather be caught with a gun rather than be caught without one.” “I know that it is wrong to carry an illegal gun, but where I live, it is wrong for me not to have one.”
- Introduce an empowerment program in schools focusing on gangs, guns and goals; include issues of domestic violence, work readiness and drug awareness.
- Why does gun violence continue?
 1. Environmental Factors
 2. Economic Factors
 3. Educational Factors
- What can we do?
 1. Law Enforcement
 2. Deterrence
 3. Empowerment – Education with economics and equality breeds empowerment in our community.
- ❖ Nathan and Richie, young ex-offenders
 - “You’ll end up dead or in prison if you follow my lead.” Advocate responsibility; “do the right thing, the choice is yours.” “Are you willing to do what it takes to get what you want? Control your own destiny.”
 - Chuck Smiler: Are the schools utilizing any of our community resources?
 - Dr. Bonner: Yes, New Directions and H.O.P.E.
 - Drae: Street Outreach teaches kids to give back to the community and share their hopes and dreams to make things better.
 - Female student: How do we stop the violence when it has already started?
 - Jamie Berberena: Starts with young people standing up. Say “NO”, you don’t have to follow.
 - Pam Talbot: Thank you to Nathan and Richie for sharing their stories.
 - Rev. Dias: Invest in hot spot areas and empower yourselves! Perhaps a police station in the North End. Positive role models and incorporating the Peace Corps into our streets.
 - Deirdre: Dr. Bonner can’t do it alone! Funding cuts should push us, as a community, to integrate and collaborate more than ever. Change is inevitable and our futures are up to us.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10am.

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