



Lead Facilitator Script

My name is _____

And I am your coordinator for the community engagement tonight. I would like to begin by thanking you for coming and adding my welcome as well. My role tonight is to give you the information you will need for the Dialogue

The set of facts that was just shared with you about EBR Public Schools is designed to give information that will help give you background, facts and statistics that you will need as a part of the discussion.

The organizing group's intention is to be proactive and prepare for forward movement in EBR Public Schools by creating this safe space for open and honest dialogue. All of the dialogue participants should have completed your pre dialogue survey which is designed to help you focus your attention and set your vision as we look "beyond bricks" to a newly recharged public school system in EBR.

But first, I would like to tell you a little about the dialogue process, as well as present a set of guidelines necessary for the success of a dialogue.

THE DIALOGUE PROCESS

In dialogue "the meaning" evolves collectively through mutual understanding and the acceptance of diverse points of view.

The process, works best when those participating have an opportunity to share in a conversation where views are not imposed on you; instead we invite you to add new dimensions to what others are thinking. We are committed to listen to the voice of the heart and strive to find ways to make that voice articulate.

PURPOSE OF DIALOGUE

The purpose of Dialogue is neither to agree nor to determine who is right. Rather, the purpose is to discover the richness of diverse perceptions. This way shared meaning can emerge from a group through inquiry and reflection. Our challenge is to learn from what has been said.

The guidelines for you as participants are:

1. Listen with the expectation that everyone has something valuable to contribute and are there because they too care about EBR Public Schools.
2. Please speak openly and honestly.

3. Listen to the diverse points of view as you would listen to each instrument in an orchestra...the diversity of views lead to the collective meaning.
4. Free yourself from a rigid mindset...stand back and respond rather than reacting automatically or defensively.

The Facilitators will help keep you focused and on track with these guidelines.

How the Dialogue is set up:

Each group has a facilitator and a scribe (the scribe has the job of documenting the conversation of each group to find what ultimately has been determined by everyone involved to be necessary for recharging our schools)

The Scribes will keep key notes on the conversation that will be compiled later for a report back to the organizing group to determine what the community most wants changed in the EBR Public Schools (no names will be used in the report)

The Facilitator will introduce the topic questions, keep the conversation focused and help you process through your concerns and bring about meaning toward what you are hoping will improve EBR Public Schools.

Once the dialogue begins,

Participants will respond to three topic questions ...the topics are in question form - not as questions to be answered but topics to be discussed...Questions are a valuable way of helping you to better bring forward your thoughts.

Also, the topic question format offers a greater opportunity for meaningful dialogue that leads to greater understanding. The Dialogue will last 90 min.; 1 hour and a half.

Each Topic Question has a different purpose which I will describe and together they help raise the level of the conversation and help keep the conversation focused and moving forward as well as help everyone bring their maximum to the discussion.

Here is the description of each Topic Question.

First Topic Question: This is where you will respond to the facts that have been presented at the beginning of the gathering.

Second Topic Question: This is where you will talk about

- What you see in the school system and how the community and individuals also contribute to the results of these facts and statistics.
- What you believe are the events and actions that have led to problems and issues in the schools
- And what you see that is working well in the schools.

Third Topic Question: Finally you will be asked to reflect on what you believe would have prevented the problems in the first place.

Also, you will be asked what you would like to see done and the impact your recommendations would bring. You will also be asked if you will commit to a role and/or make a commitment to bring about the needed changes.

How the Session is timed

Approximately 30 min is allowed for each topic question's discussion. The facilitator will introduce each topic question as they get to it... As coordinator, I will announce when it is time to move from one topic to the next. This gives each facilitator a range to work within as they prepare to move between the topic questions.

AFTER THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIALOGUE: We will have a share back

There will be a short pause in the program to give each group along with their scribe and facilitator

Determine the top item from your discussion (the item that got talked about most and what was said about it)

Each facilitator will come to the front of the room and present the top item from their group.

WHAT RESULTS ARE WE EXPECTING?

Many people have been asking that question. The lead convenor of the group Anna Fogle answered the question in the Advocate report this way.

“The biggest question I get is, what are the results? What are you trying to do with this?” And I can't give you that,” Fogle said. “We want it to come from the community. We don't want to project the end to this means.”

So that is the answer, the results will come from you; it will guide what ultimately happens next. As a member of the community, you will look at what matters to you about our schools, what you would like to see happen and what you can do.

After the dialogue, the share back information and the notes from the scribes will be turned over to the core group to be compiled into a report which will then be reviewed for these central messages and consistent concerns and suggestions for change. This information coming from you and other community groups together will direct what happens next and where the information will go, how it will be used and or whether there needs to be further community conversations...it is all up to what we hear from you in these sessions.

We now turn the dialogue over to the table facilitators to begin your community engagement dialogue Beyond Bricks EBR...enjoy the experience.