



# MEC

Mathematics Education Collaborative  
*Partners in Support of Quality Mathematics Education*

## Community Math Night (CMN) and follow-up Community/Business Advisory Meeting (CBA)

*Presented and facilitated by Ruth Parker*

### **Community Math Night: *Mathematics and Your Child's Future***

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During this session, participants examine:

- the need for numerical reasoning to be at the center of all work with numbers,
- the need for inquiry based K-12 mathematics programs, and
- using Number Talks to develop number sense and mathematical reasoning.

The two-hour session is interactive, and appropriate for large groups of parents, teachers, school and district leaders, school board members and other community members. Participants are invited to stay for a Q & A session at the end of the presentation.

### **Community/Business Advisory Meeting**

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MEC strongly recommends a **follow-up community / business advisory meeting for district administrators and business and community leaders**. To maximize the benefit of this meeting, we ask district superintendents and other leaders to attend MEC's public CMN along with their special invited guests, including business leaders, politicians, members of the press, school board members and other community leaders. These leaders attend the CMN and then meet the following morning to discuss the efficacy of the ideas presented. Ruth facilitates these 2 1/2 -hour follow-up meetings where:

- she presents a brief overview of why community engagement is essential to the success of mathematics reform efforts,
- participants are invited to share with others any important ideas they heard or thought about during the evening session,
- business leaders are asked to advise the group on the efficacy of the ideas from a business perspective, and
- educators and business and community leaders discuss potential next steps for the district and how business and education can work together to secure quality mathematics programs in local schools.

Ruth has done these follow-up meetings in several locations around the country. They have consistently proven to be very productive, positive, and effective in securing support for quality mathematics in schools. These follow-up meetings serve to engage key community players as partners in the work of mathematics restructuring, and the sessions build a common base of understanding from which more knowledgeable ongoing decisions can be made.

*"... even if we know how to improve instruction, it will not happen unless there is a context that is willing to support the work, and even create demand for the work...It is the lack of public understanding and support that is the bottleneck to improvement. Hence, MEC's work is key."*

Mark St. John, Inverness Research personal communication, 8/06