T
he Minnesota Alliance of Black Educators (MABSE) will conduct a series of public hearings statewide with the goal of bringing about significant change in securing a top quality academic education for all students, particularly African-Americans

Pictured (Left to Right): Dr. Bernadeia Johnson, Superintendent of Minneapolis Public Schools, Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner, Francine Chakolis, MABSE president

MABSE plans on using a uniquely expanded methodology of community involvement in the form of a broadly based, wrap-around approach to gather data for these proposed changes.

This "Sputnik" approach developed by MABSE president, Francine Chakolis, is encouraging all concerned students, family members, community members and community organizations to participate.

The first public hearing will be held Wed., Aug. 8 at the Glover Sudduth Center (Minneapolis Urban League building) located at 2100 Plymouth Ave. N. The hearing takes place from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Featured speakers include Dr. Bernadeia Johnson, superintendent of the Minneapolis Public Schools, and Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Minnesota Department of Education commissioner.

A second public hearing will be held Mon., Sept.10, and a third hearing is set for Mon., Oct. 1. All of the hearings are to take place between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. The locations for the September and October hearings have yet to be announced.

Chakolis said the hearings will provide current data on where African-American children are, academically.

"MABSE has established a safe, non-threatening venue to collect stories from parents (or) guardians, students, families, public school officials and all others on challenges and solutions relevant to our students getting a quality education," said Chakolis via a released statement.

MABSE is an affiliate of the National Alliance of Black School Educators founded by Dr. Charles Moody. The group's national mission is to further the academic success for the nation's children particularly children of African-American descent.

"We continue to follow and execute the same goals and mission of the national organization," said Chakolis. "The Minnesota Branch has also been restructured to include advocating for parents who need help in advocating for their children."

For further details on MABSE or upcoming hearings, contact Francine Chakolis at 612-588-5809, email francinebchakolis@gmail.com or Hattie Bonds at 612-382-2412, email mabse2001@yahoo.com.