**WAITING FOR SUPERMAN**

1. Who is responsible for creating and maintaining a great public school? What is your role – as a student? What needs to happen in your community to create more public ownership of your local public schools?

2. What do you believe are the root causes of low-performing schools? What is being done to improve them? What should be done?

3. How could charter and non-charter schools learn from one another?

4. What factors do you think should be taken into consideration when evaluating teacher performance and determining pay levels?

5. How do we support teachers in their early years and enable good teachers to gain the confidence and experience to become great?

6. How does our district evaluate teachers to determine who should receive tenure? What support systems are in place to assist struggling teachers and remove those who do not improve? If you don’t know, how can you find out?

7. What do you think are the essential skills that a young person needs to prepare for a full and productive life after high school?

8. Todd Dickson, from Summit Preparatory High School in Redwood City, California, says, “We think every kid should be able to get to the highest level of curriculum, so we want to hold them all to the same high standard.” Do you think all students should take a college-preparatory curriculum? What supports need to be in place to ensure that students are successful?

9. How are career technical education programs designed in your school or district? What changes should be made to ensure that students are engaged and prepared?

10. Do you think universal preschool should be a priority for districts and states? Why or why not?

11. What can a school community do to create an environment that values and prioritizes reading? What is the role of parents, school staff and community members in fostering a culture of reading at school and at home? How might you foster a reading culture at your school?

12. Many believe that the ability to speak, read and write in more than one language – or “biliteracy” – should be a goal for all students so that the United States can be competitive in a global marketplace, yet, only a small percentage of students graduate with dual-language skills. What is your school or district doing to promote these skills? Should the ability to read and write in more than one language be a standard for districts and states?

13. What are some of the barriers for ensuring that all children in our community receive a high quality education? What do you believe should be our priority when it comes to improving education in our community/state? Who is responsible for making that happen?

14. What did you learn from watching the film that you didn’t know before? What questions would you ask the filmmakers?

15. Several major stories are presented in the film: the history of public education in America, and the stories of individual children and families striving for the best possible education. Which story or stories touched you the most?