



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Education – Truancy Sub-Workgroup

MINUTES

OF

EDUCATION – TRUANCY

SUB-WORKGROUP

January 22, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Education/Truancy

Sub-Workgroup

January 22, 2008

2:15 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education/Truancy Sub-Workgroup taken on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:35 p.m.

Education - Truancy Sub-Workgroup

Bill Scheu, Chair
Tony Bellamy, Member
Nancy Broner, Member
Pam Paul, Member
Shelley Grant, Member
Bill Hodges, Member
Connie Hodges, Member
Nongongama Majova-Seane, Member
Harris Warren, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIR & MEMBERS:

Bill Scheu, Chair
Tony Bellamy, Member
Nancy Broner, Member
Pam Paul, Member
Shelley Grant, Member
Bill Hodges, Member
Connie Hodges, Member
Nongongama Majova-Seane, Member
Harris Warren, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

None

STAFF:

YONNER WHEELER

OTHERS PRESENT:

Melanie Patz

PROCEEDINGS

January 22, 2008

Education - Truancy Sub-Workgroup

2:15 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments

Ms. Broner called the meeting to order at approximately 2:35 p.m.

Purpose of Meeting

To discuss instituting some initial action items to prevent truancy in Duval County.

Discussion

Ms. Broner stated that the purpose of this sub-committee is to be able to develop some more processes to further enhance truancy and structure measures. Presently, there are two mode models in place that deal with truancy:

Mode 1 - Truant students are picked up by a law enforcement officer or a truant officer and transported to the nearest middle or high school. The parent is then contacted. If the child happens to attend the school that they are returned to, the parent is contacted and the child is sent back to class.

Mode 2 - Truant students are picked up and transported to the nearest truancy facility. At the truancy center, students receive counseling for social, emotional, medical, and/or behavioral issues that may contribute to the absence from school. The student remains at the center until a parent/guardian comes to the truancy center. There are only four (4) truancy centers in Duval County. Workgroup members agreed that there are not enough truant centers. There are also not enough social workers to deal with

social services issues related to truancy issues for the students and/or their parent(s)/guardian.

Action

Discussion ensued about the funding and logistics issues, the Truancy Arbitration Program as well as providing a van to do a "clean sweep" of truant students and it was determined that the following initial actions should be taken under consideration:

1. Enhance security using the School Resources Officers (SRO's) and dedicated police officers.
2. Institute a sweep of truant students once or twice per month.
3. Administer services needed for the child and the parent/guardian with a sound and consistent follow-up program.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 3:05p.m.