

The Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability

Education – School Relevancy Sub-Workshop

January 22, 2008

2:15 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee taken on Tuesday, January 22, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor – 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Education – School Relevancy Sub-Workshop Attendees

Terrie Brady, Duval Teachers United
W. Earl Kitchings, Sportivation, Inc.
Ed Pratt-Dannals, Duval County Public Schools
Tom Mydaniz, M.S.C.
Linda Lanier, Jacksonville Children’s Commission

Others Present.

Don Downing – Observer, Springfield Resident

Call to Order and Comments. Terrie Brady called the meeting to order at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Purpose of meeting. To identify & prioritize issues for discussion, identify resources and set future meeting dates and times.

Ms. Brady provided an email from W.C. Gentry, Chair that conveyed the importance and focus of this sub-workshop. The areas of focus will be: Teacher hiring and retention, Education alternatives to college bound, Drop outs, Magnet Schools and Extended day.

Ms. Brady expressed the dire need to improve teacher hiring and retention. Some avenues to improve teacher hiring and retention would include extra salary incentives (subsidized housing, financing assistance, post graduate scholarships and support); co-teaching; mentoring; teacher assignment and placement. The goal for Duval County Public Schools is to attract and hire the best and brightest teachers. There may be a need to recruit non-education majors with under graduate and graduate degrees to teach in areas of their expertise. Also, last year former Superintendent Wise completed a study that focused on teacher recruitment and retention. Ms. Brady asked the group if she could invite Ms. Vickie Reynolds, Duval County Public Schools Human Resources, to speak on this study and to provide a copy of the study. The group agreed. After

reviewing the study, it was felt that presenting the information to the community for their input and support would be beneficial to the schools, students, police and city.

Next Ms. Brady brought up education alternatives to college. This is the need to try and prepare students for a global workplace regardless of the type of work and secondary education that they may or may not pursue. Currently the level of reading and math skills for blue collar apprenticeships are at an all time high and it is important to have all students prepared. In the future there may be a need to bring a representative from one of the alternative non-college bound schools to learn about the program and to get input from the sub-workgroup.

Drop outs are another concern. Currently Duval County Schools offer a program called Dropping Back In. This program allows individuals that over age and short on credits to come back to high school in the late afternoon and evening hours to finish their education. Ms. Brady recommended that the group look at the various Drop Back In programs to determine what would be the most effective for Jacksonville. In March 2008 legislation will be presented that will increase the age of an individual from 16 to 18 years old before they can drop out.

An open discussion needs to be held on Magnet School. Some individuals feel that the magnet programs cause a brain drain from the community schools and that the magnet programs are too expensive to operate. As a group, it is necessary that we determine if we get our money's worth from the magnet programs. It is also important that the group discuss how to ensure that neighborhood schools provide a quality education to the public.

Ms. Brady requested that the group also look at Extended Day. This is the concept to extend the actual school day. She would like to discuss the possible impact that this concept would have on the community and school.

The next meeting date and time will be determined after the main Jacksonville Journey afternoon meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.