



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Education, Truancy, Dropout and Literacy

Subcommittee

MINUTES

OF

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

SCHOOL RELEVANCY WORKGROUP

February 8, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Education

Education, Truancy, Dropout and Literacy Sub-Committee

School Relevancy Workgroup

February 8, 2008

12:00 p.m. Meeting

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education Sub-Committee, School Security Workgroup taken on Friday, February 8, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 12:00 p.m.

School Relevancy Workgroup

Terrie Brady, Chair
Michael Edwards, Member
John Fletcher, Member
Robert Lee, Member
Tom Majdanics, Member
Gerlieve Oliver, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

TERRIE BRADY, CHAIR
MICHAEL EDWARDS, MEMBER
TOM MAJDANICS, MEMBER
GERLIEVE OLIVER, MEMBER

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

JOHN FLETCHER, MEMBER
ROBERT LEE, MEMBER

STAFF:

Alice Checorski
Linda Lanier, SME/Advisor

OTHERS PRESENT:

Vicki Burke
Pat Carley
Dr. Lillie Granger
Kathy Graw
Cheryl Grymes

PROCEEDINGS

February 8, 2008

Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup 12:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Terrie Brady, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:10 p.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative, *The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step* Education, Truancy, Dropout and Literacy Subcommittee, School Relevancy Workgroup.

2. Discussion Items

Chairwoman Brady asked the Workgroup to change the meeting time for the February 20, 2008 meeting from 12:00-2:00 p.m. to 2:00-3:30 p.m. She stated they will be setting the workgroup's priorities and bulleting how to present their recommendations to the steering committee. She further announced that there is a group that will assist them with writing their priorities. The workgroup will begin this task during the February 11, 2008 meeting, looking at Recruitment and Retention, Career Academies and the Drop Back-In Program. Chairwoman Brady would like to identify the number of students they anticipate helping and what the past results indicate.

At this time, Chairwoman Brady introduced Dr. Lillie Granger, former teacher and principal in the Duval County Public School system, who will address Challenge Schools. With her was Pat Carley, who works with School Improvement and Challenge Schools.

Dr. Granger stated there are different categories in the Federally-sanctioned schools. In meeting the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) requirement, they look at students in terms of race, exceptionalities, etc. Each year the targets change. Schools In Need of Improvement (SINI) are Title 1 schools. At Level 3, the children have an opportunity to go to another school in the district with transportation provided. Supplemental education services are provided to these children through tutoring. At Level 4, changes of structural programs are looked at. Next year we anticipate 27 Level 5 schools.

Chairwoman Brady inquired if all SINI schools are "F" schools, to which Dr. Granger replied they are not.

At the State level, there are assistance programs available to the "D" and "F" schools which are connected to the FCAT grade. Currently, there are 12 schools in this category. Linda Lanier asked if the school grade is based solely on FCAT. Dr. Granger stated that is correct. At the district level, these schools have after-school tutoring programs, additional district coaches and a person who monitors their plan for restructuring. There are incentives for the teachers in those schools. They have an opportunity to earn up to \$6,000 this year based on performance. Linda Lanier asked if the coaches are for the teachers or for the students. Dr. Granger responded that the major part of their time is to support the teachers. Ms. Lanier replied that the Early Learning Program's coaches also sit with the teachers.

Dr. Granger stated we have 17 turnaround schools that were also given mentors within the district. Pat Carley directed the Workgroup to the DCPS Web site for in depth information regarding the formula used to determine adequate progress.

Dr. Granger said that in our high need schools, it is important to attract high quality teachers through incentives. Michael Edwards asked if there are other incentives that could be provided besides monetary. Dr. Granger stated they are talking with the University of Florida about an imbedded Master's Program. They have a transition to teachers program which is an excellent way to develop our own teachers. Dr. Granger stated that Dr. Pemberton, UF, is meeting with the district and looking at Title 1 to support schools that are restructuring from Level 6 and some Level 5's. For fifty teachers (5 in ten schools), two years in the Master's Program would cost about \$800,000.

Dr. Granger suggested that extending the day academically would allow students who arrive late to benefit from some instruction. Gerlieve Oliver stated the extended day allows the teachers to work more closely with the children and it is working very well as a trial. Chairwoman Brady stated the highest cost factor is the transportation piece.

Chairwoman Brady said that by extending the school year, both the children and their families benefit.

Tom Majdanics asked how much the extra hour per school day costs. Pat Carley replied \$165,000 of State money for teachers and their benefits. The transportation cost is \$230,000, funded by the

district since the transportation hub had to be moved to accommodate the extended hours. Chairwoman Brady asked Dr. Granger to provide data as to the population, transportation needs, etc.

The workgroup then discussed Saturday school, which is partially funded by Supplemental Academic Intervention (SAI), provided by the State. The average hours for Saturday school are 8:00 a.m. to noon. Participation is voluntary with approximately 80-100 students enrolled. Breakfast is not funded during Saturday school. Linda Lanier said that JCC has some nutrition programs. She will explore this as a possible option.

Dr. Granger suggested extended school library hours to allow students access to computers and resource materials. Kathy Graw will provide the workgroup with the operating hours for the Jacksonville Public Library.

Chairwoman Brady inquired about using business partners at the Challenge Schools. Dr. Granger stated all the Challenge Schools do have active business partners including non-profit organizations who assist with supplemental holiday meals, supplies, etc. Vicki Burke specifically mentioned the donations provided by Fresh Ministries so that the children would have meals over the long holiday break. Chairwoman Brady recommended asking the business partners to expand their support with the 17 turnaround schools.

Cheryl Grymes reported that the Positive Youth Development Subcommittee is looking at mentors. Chairwoman Brady stated that Wachovia could be the model business partner for their support

with school mentors. Ms. Grymes said that the Council of Educational Change (a State program) has a program in which mentoring is the most important piece. Vicki Burke suggested that a staff person be dedicated to finding business partners and mentors.

Gerlieve Oliver asked if business partners can go outside their school community to assist in other areas. Ms. Grymes is working on a strategic task force with the district and the goal is to determine how the community can help. Vicki Burke said they met with the schools and asked each of the principals for a "needs list" to be shared with the community partners.

At this time, Linda Lanier stated the workgroup's primary focus is school relevancy and how to get the children into school and keep them there. Chairwoman Brady said that students need to know that they are safe and that the teachers are the best. Career Academies for the Challenge Schools could be a summer pilot program. Linda Lanier would like to take the Career Academies recommendation to the Positive Youth Development Sub-committee.

In summary, Dr. Granger stated that with extended hours for the Challenge Schools, the teachers need additional planning time. There should be extended school hours, extended school year, extended library hours, summer hours and partner with the University of Florida. Dr. Granger will be meeting with Dr. Pemberton, UF, next week. Tom Majdanics asked Dr. Granger to bring back a list of priorities and Ms. Grymes asked her to include how to measure success of these recommendations.

Chairwoman Brady expressed concern over the recruitment and retention of teachers as part of the problem. Ending on a note of hope, there is a list of teachers waiting for an opening in the 17 Challenge Schools.

The discussion will continue at the **next meeting on Monday, February 11, 2008 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

3. Action Items

Chairwoman Brady asked to **change the meeting time** for the **February 20, 2008** meeting from 12:00-2:00 p.m. to **2:00-3:30 p.m.**

Kathy Graw will provide the workgroup with the **operating hours** for the **Jacksonville Public Library**.

Dr. Granger will provide **data** regarding the **population and transportation needs, etc. for extended school hours**. She will also **prioritize needs** and provide means for **measuring success**, based on the workgroup's recommendations.

Linda Lanier will explore the **nutrition programs** offered through JCC as a possible option for **Saturday school**. Ms. Lanier will also take the idea of **Career Academies** for **Challenge Schools** to the **PYD** Sub-committee.

Adjournment The meeting ended at 1:45 p.m.