



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Education

MEETING SUMMARY

Of

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

SCHOOL RELEVANCY - WORKGROUP

February 11, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey –
Education Subcommittee
Education Relevance Workgroup
February 11, 2008
12:00 Noon

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey – Education Subcommittee, Education Relevance Workgroup taken on Monday, February 11, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 825 – 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 12:00 Noon

Education Relevance Workgroup

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

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

TERRIE BRADY, Chair
TOM MAJDANICS, Member
MICHAEL EDWARDS, Member
ROBERT LEE, Member
LINDA LANIER, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

JOHN FLETCHER, Member
GERLIEVE OLIVER, Member

STAFF:

GLORIA F. BLAKE

OTHERS PRESENT:

SENATOR BETTY HOLZENDORF
ANNA BRADLEY
KATHY GRAW
VICKI BURKE

PROCEEDINGS

February 11, 2008

Education Sub-Committee, Education Relevance Workgroup

12:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. The meeting began at approximately 12:00 Noon

1. Presentation

The Chairman welcomed all in attendance. She then informed the committee of the guest that was to give the presentation today, the Guidance Counselors from Duval County School Board.

While waiting on their arrival the following items were discussed:

- Numbers to be quantified for the Career Academy
- On February 20th, all of the presentations will be reviewed.
- We must quantify cost and new programs

The Chairman introduced Mr. Jonathan Brice; he spoke to the Drop-Out Prevention group. He is in charge of several programs: the Drop Back In Program; the Career Academy; Extended Accelerate Program and many other programs for the District.

Mr. Brice informed the committee that one of the concerns the Superintendent has is providing students with additional pathways to success. It is believed that expanding Alternative Learning Center's (ALC) concept will provide and opportunity to do that. There are two things that the district already has in place that will not cost additional money.

1. 165 buildings
2. Instructional software

The only cost for these programs would be to provide supervision. The expanded Alternative Learning Centers will be implemented in 14 comprehensive high schools geographically located throughout the district. The program will operate in the evening from 4:00 p. m. until 7:00 p.m. and will focus on students recovering credits and earning initial credits in order to earn a standard diploma or a GED.

Currently this program is running at Andrew Jackson High School and Nathan B. Forrest High School. The goal is to branch out to 14 additional campuses.

Mr. Brice referred to Appendix A, a list of the targeted schools for the program. Phase I would include 8 schools when school begins in August. \$267K in Phase II, an additional 6 schools would be on board in January. The total cost of \$534K for teachers, counselors and other staff.

2. The Chairman opened the floor for questions.

Q = How successful have Andrew Jackson and Nathan B. Forrest Schools been with the program? How many kids are coming back and taking advantage of the program? What are your measures of success?

A = Our indicators of success are:

1. Student participation, are all the seats full?
2. Are they earning credits?
3. Have they earned a Standard Diploma, Certificate of Completion or GED.

Q = Some kids don't do their work because they know they can request make up packets. Some teachers have to provide 44 packets for 44 students, this is a hardship. How can this be monitored?

A = Some abuse does take place, but we must acknowledge that all students do not learn during the set timeframes. We must provide this program to assist them.

Comment: It is amazing how 379 kids over the age of their grade level are still even coming to school. They are coming for some reason.

Q = It was stated you have the building and the software, do you have the hardware--the computers?

A = Yes, we have the computer labs.

Q = How many slots are available for the total number of schools?

A = We build computer labs with 25 computers and two labs per building. 50 slots x the 14 schools is about 500+ slots. Once the software becomes internet based, it will open up unlimited options.

It was stated that this program has the potential to reduce the dropout rate, reduce the truancy rate, reduce the disruption in class, and help demoralized kids who are hopeless and full of despair.

Senator Betty Holzendorff was present and addressed the committee with encouraging words and support of the ALC program.

The Chairman requested the committee review the handout entitled "DCPS Career Academies" numerical statistics were reviewed and discussed.

6. Adjournment

There is a full agenda for the next meeting on February 20, 2008 "Setting Our Priorities". Note the time change; we will be meeting at 2:00 p.m. instead of 12:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:05 p.m.