



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Education

MINUTES

OF

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

TRUANCY WORKGROUP

February 26, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Education

Education Sub-Committee

Truancy Workgroup

February 26, 2008

9:00 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education Sub-Committee, Truancy Workgroup taken on Friday, February 26, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Truancy Workgroup

Bill Scheu, Chair
Nancy Broner, Member
Jonathon Brice, Member
Pastor Moses Criswell, Member
Councilwoman Mia Jones, Member
Shelley Grant, Member
Bill Hodges, Member
Connie Hodges, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

Bill Scheu, Chair
Shelley Grant, Member
Bill Hodges, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

Nancy Broner, Member
Pastor Moses Criswell, Member
Connie Hodges, Member
Councilwoman Mia Jones, Member
Jonathon Brice, SME/Adviser

STAFF:

Alice Checorski

OTHERS PRESENT:

Donna Massie-Cobb
Kathy Graw
Tom Majdanics
Melanie Patz

PROCEEDINGS

February 26, 2008

Education Sub-Committee, Truancy Workgroup

9:00 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Bill Scheu called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss the challenges centered around truancy impacting the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey.

Chairman Bill Scheu led the workgroup in a review of the proposed Sub-committee Recommendations. He requested that the memorandum be addressed to the Education, Literacy, Truancy and Dropout Sub-committee of the Jacksonville Journey, from the Truancy and Dropout Workgroup, and be dated March 5, 2008.

The workgroup discussed and agreed upon the prioritization and re-numbering of the recommendations as follows:

1. Truancy Prevention

- 1.a. Hiring and Deployment of 30 additional Attendance Social Workers
- 1.b. Identification, alignment and coordination of community resources to support elimination of truancy.
- 1.c. Development of Community Action Truancy Team

2. Dropout Prevention

- 2.a. United Way - Achievers for Life
- 2.b. The Community Foundation
 - Part I - Making the Move: *Transitions to Middle School*
 - Part II - Make the Move: *Transition to High School*

Other changes to the draft include the following:

Table 1 appearing under item 1.a. should be moved to one page with totals appearing on the bottom of the columns.

The workgroup decided not to recommend where to place these additional 30 social workers as they do not want to micromanage the decision. The allocation should be left to the school system. Ideally, there should be one social worker in every school and two in the larger high schools. The workgroup asked Donna Massie-Cobb to include the analogy of Sandalwood High School due to the number of students. Ms. Cobb stated our services should be where the need is greatest.

The workgroup discussed the role of the Full Service Schools experienced social worker who will serve as a coordinator of resources and services. Ms. Cobb said we need someone well-versed in the resources available and who would be an asset to the DCPS. A case manager would be there to provide assistance.

Melanie Patz said this person would be assigned to the staff to recommend resources and be a part of the Community Action Truancy Team.

Mr. Scheu suggested changing the recommendation to two Full Service Schools social workers whose function is not to manage the 62 Attendance Social Workers, but to provide information and resources and participate on the Community Action Truancy Team.

The workgroup reviewed item 1.c. (formerly Recommendation #3), Development of Community Action Truancy Team and recommended changing paragraph two, The State Attorney's Office (SAO) **should** (instead of would) be the lead agency in creating and maintaining

the truancy team. The two Full Service School social workers would be members. Additionally, the sentence containing "war room" atmosphere should include "where members of the team meet no less frequently than bi-weekly."

The workgroup next discussed item 2. Dropout Prevention. Melanie Patz clarified the first paragraph regarding "community leaders" who are not necessarily associated with the stakeholders' organizations but are concerned with the truancy issues. The workgroup decided to remove the Fiscal Note: \$350,000 per year since additional funding will be needed for some high schools if other feeder patterns are selected.

Ms. Patz explained that the two high schools targeted in 2008 are Ribault and Raines; in 2009 Englewood, Sandalwood and Fletcher and in 2010 adding Forrest and Andrew Jackson. The statement regarding 30% of Achievers For Life students showed improvement in GPA, etc. should be prefaced with "preliminary data shows 30%....."

Tom Majdanics and Bill Scheu recommending adding to the Outcomes "it is important to remember that these are high school feeder patterns and the dollars are going to middle schools." A chart should be included in the proposal listing the schools.

2.b. Community Foundation - the workgroup suggested making a note of the cumulative nature of these numbers. Also, in the last paragraph before Program Design stating The Community Foundation will pilot...the workgroup recommended taking out the Truancy and Dropout Prevention committee and change it to recommendations will be made for replication and expansion.

Bill Hodges and Tom Majdanics recommended adding a line to show the positive results of high school graduation such as "the return on one graduate would pay for a Truancy Program for 2 years and will result in higher incomes for our graduates and lower crime rates." The Blueprint for Prosperity includes data reflecting the return on the investment in dropout prevention of \$200,000 per child.

Shelley Grant suggested adding "given the mobility rates, it is the committee's feeling that truancy and dropout prevention is a community-wide problem."

At this time the workgroup voted on the conceptual recommendations. The decision was in favor unanimously.

2. Action Items

Donna Massie-Cobb will re-write the recommendations as amended today and forward them to the workgroup by Friday, February 29, 2008 for their feedback prior to submission to the Education Subcommittee on March 5, 2008.

Adjournment. The meeting ended at 10:00 a.m.