



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Education

MINUTES

OF

EDUCATION, TRUANCY, DROPOUT &

LITERACY

SUB-COMMITTEE

February 19, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Education
Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy

Sub-Committee

February 19, 2008

1:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Sub-Committee, taken on Tuesday, February 19, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Sub-Committee

W. C. Gentry, Chair
Tony Bellamy, Member
Terrie Brady, Member
Nancy Broner, Member
Vicki Burke, Member
Charles "Skip" Cramer, Member
Pastor Moses Criswell, Member
Michael Edwards, Member
John Fletcher, Member
Deborah Gianoulis, Member
Cheryl Grymes, Member
Bill Hodges, Member
Connie Hodges, Member
Kevin Hyde, Member
Mia Jones, Member
Robert Lee, Member
Tom Majdanics, Member
Nongongama Majova-Seane, Member
Gerlieve Oliver, Member
Perry Robinson, Member
Bill Scheu, Member
Connie Stophel, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

W.C. GENTRY, Chair
TERRIE BRADY, Member
NANCY BRONER, Member
VICKI BURKE, Member
CHARLES "SKIP" CRAMER, Member
PASTOR MOSES CRISWELL, Member
MICHAEL EDWARDS, Member
JOHN FLETCHER, Member
CHERYL GRYMES, Member
BILL HODGES, Member
MIA JONES, Member
ROBERT LEE, Member
TOM MAJDANICS, Member
BILL SCHEU, Member
CONNIE STOPHEL, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

TONY BELLAMY, Member
DEBORAH GIANOULIS, Member
CONNIE HODGES, Member
COUNCILMAN KEVIN HYDE, Member
NONGONOMA MAJOVA-SEANE, Member
GERLIEVE OLIVER, Member
REVEREND PERRY ROBINSON, Member

STAFF:

RENEE BRUST
ALICE CHECORSKI
KANDI BEGUE
ANNA BRADLEY
LYNN RIX
RACHELLE SUNDY

OTHERS PRESENT:

Diane Brunet-Garcia
Donna Massie-Cobb, DCPS
Judy Cromartie, DCPS
David DeRidder, Schultz Center
Pam Paul Dopf, The Community Foundation
Dr. Cheryl Fountain, FIE/UNF
Kathy Graw, JPL
Sharon Kirkland
W. Earl Kitchings
Beverly McClain, FOSCI
Susan Main, ELC of Duval
Tia Mitchell, T-U
Melissa Ross, Dalton Agency
Lucretia Williams, Citizen
Nan Worsowicz, DCPS

PROCEEDINGS

February 19, 2008

Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Sub-Committee, 1:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman W.C. Gentry called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15 p.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - *The Jacksonville Journey*, Education, Literacy, Truancy and Dropouts Sub-committee.

2. Discussion Items

Chairman Gentry announced the next meeting of the sub-committee will be on March 12, 2008 at 1 p.m. The meeting date was set after he learned that the Steering Committee will meet on March 13, 2008 and begin reviewing the sub-committee's recommendations and proposals. Chairman Gentry expressed his appreciation to everyone for their hard work. He asked Renee Brust to send a memorandum advising of the three-week window so that the workgroups can meet and finalize their recommendations. Each workgroup will have a P.R. person assigned to them. Part of the recommendations should include some marketing to the community. Maria Coppola (involved in developing the Guiding Stars Program) has volunteered to be a resource. Other members of the P.R. committee were introduced, Melissa Ross and Diane Brunet-Garcia. All programs will need to be costed and staff will be available to assist. The recommendations should include a case analysis and what impact you expect in the short and long term. To that end, Chairman Gentry asked the workgroups to submit to Renee no later

than Wednesday, March 5, 2008. Copies will be circulated to the sub-committee by March 10, 2008 and on March 12, 2008 we will have oral presentations and adopt or amend what has been proposed.

The question was raised as to whether the sub-committee should expect to continue and Chairman Gentry stated they will as some things will take longer to implement and require additional study.

Pastor Moses Criswell invited everyone to attend a press conference today at 4 p.m. at 1312 Franklin Street to discuss the summer camp and after-school programs which they have been operating for eight years to assist at-risk children.

Chairman Gentry said that Deborah Gianoulis sent an e-mail suggesting that the sub-committee visit some of the programs they are discussing such as a child care center, elementary school and a truancy center. The sub-committee agreed that it would be helpful and decided to concentrate on the A. Philip Randolph area between March 5, 2008 and March 12, 2008. The proposals can be amended if needed after the site visit.

At this time, Chairman Gentry asked the sub-committee to break up into workgroups for thirty minutes before returning as a body.

At approximately 2:20 p.m., the sub-committee meeting resumed.

Chairman Gentry asked for suggestions and comments at this time.

Tom Majdanics asked if there will be some discussion when the workgroups come together with their recommendations. Chairman

Gentry stated they will prioritize and make changes accordingly.

Terrie Brady stated that we have had great community engagement and it would be helpful to have a person from those groups as a resource when we take our report to the Steering Committee.

Chairman Gentry asked Ms. Brady to prepare a consolidated list to invite the resource persons to hear our final recommendation. Bill Scheu commented we have already received input of the Alliance and Chairman Gentry agreed it is important to invite our stakeholders. We will come up with specific written proposals, share them with the committee and see who wants to take ownership. Chairman Gentry asked the chairs of the workgroups to report to the sub-committee at this time.

Bill Scheu, Chair, Truancy and Drop-Out Workgroup, stated they have a meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 to craft their draft proposal with the P.R. person. He provided a handout of the workgroup's proposed key points and recommendations.

Connie Stophel, Chair, Early Learning workgroup, reported they have tightened up their draft proposal to recommend 25 additional centers in Zone 1, increase the readiness rate of Zone 1 children, measure the rate of children entering and leaving these programs. The workgroup is still looking into the readiness rate. To that end, they invited Dr. Cheryl Fountain, FIE/UNF to address the sub-committee regarding the tracking piece. Dr. Fountain provided a handout entitled "High-Quality School Readiness: Why We Need It, What We Know, Where We Are In Jacksonville." The study involved 7,000 children in Duval and those participating in the Early Learning Programs. The study concluded that high quality early learning is a component of what will make us successful. Chairman Gentry asked how the recommendation to add mental health counselors will operate as a resource.

Connie Stophel stated that the behavioral experts may be called to

go into a center to work with a child one-on-one. Chairman Gentry asked the workgroup to show that the ratio of the resource is very small to the population.

Terrie Brady, Chair, School Relevancy reported that the workgroup is focusing on 6 major topics. Next Wednesday, they will put together a matrix to include the number of students, outcomes, cost factor and community partnerships. The workgroup's purpose was to make education relevant to all students whether they are college or career bound.

Chairman Gentry stated that the Truancy-Drop Out workgroup is focusing on keeping children in school. We may want to merge committees or identify areas so we don't overlap.

Skip Cramer, Chair, School Security Workgroup, provided a handout of the Problem Matrix developed by the workgroup, but not in priority order. The workgroup has already had input from Duval County Public Schools, JSO, the State Attorney's Office, Duval County PTA. They will meet on Wednesday, February 20, 2008 during which Tony Bellamy, First Coast High School Principal will present feedback from the principals and Dr. Lawanda Ravoira will present on the Blueprint Commission Report on Juvenile Justice. Mr. Cramer stated the workgroup supports the implementation of full service schools; a Safe Schools Program for intervention, similar to the MARS Program; the reduction or end of out-of-school suspensions; and the accelerated implementation of Student Crime Stops and Crime Watch Programs. Chairman Gentry said that according to the Steering Committee, others are also recommending reduced out- of-school suspensions. Where to house them is the

problem.

Nancy Broner stated that large number of out-of-school suspensions is a resource issue. We have to balance the need to remove disruptive students from the classroom and the need to make suspension meaningful. Skip Cramer stated that resource costs will be factored into their recommendation.

Councilwoman Mia Jones joined the meeting at this time. She asked if the funding committee is also looking at grant opportunities. Renee Brust replied that the funding committee is looking at grants to match up to the sub-committee's recommendations.

In conclusion, Chairman Gentry stated it is his understanding we will give our report to the steering committee, who will give it to the funding committee to set priorities.

3. Action Items

March 5, 2008 - Workgroups submit recommendations

March 10, 2008 - Renee Brust circulates recommendations to sub-committee

March 12, 2008 - Sub-committee received oral presentations of recommendations

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.