



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy**

**MINUTES**

**OF**

**EDUCATION, TRUANCY, DROPOUT &**

**LITERACY:**

**CHAIR SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 24, 2008**

**The Jacksonville Journey – Education, Truancy,**

**Dropout & Literacy**

**CHAIR Subcommittee Meeting**

**January 24, 2008**

**12:00 p.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy CHAIR Subcommittee Meeting taken on Monday, January 24, 2008, City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor - 117 West Duval Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy CHAIR(s)

W.C. Gentry, Chair  
Terrie Brady, Subcommittee Chair  
Skip Cramer, Subcommittee Chair  
Connie Stophel, Subcommittee Chair  
Bill Sheu, Subcommittee Chair

## APPEARANCES

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS PRESENT**

W.C. GENTRY, Chair  
SKIP CRAMER, Member  
BILL SCHEU, Member  
TERRIE BRADY, Member  
CONNIE STOPHEL, Member

### **ABSENT**

BILL SCHEU

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

SUSIE WILES  
LINDA LANIER  
RENEE BRUST

## PROCEEDINGS

January 24, 2008

Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Chair/Committee

**Call to Order and Comments.** Chairman Gentry called the meeting to order at approximately 12:10 p.m.

**1. Purpose of Meeting.** Discuss the Chair's charges and work to date on the subcommittees. Chairman Gentry welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to be in attendance.

Chairs reported individually on their activity to date and outlined upcoming meetings with their groups.

Terry Brady's group is recommending the addition of 100 Attendance Counselors that are centrally located at the District Level. These counselors are designed to coach chronically truant children throughout the school year. Brady's group will also focus on teacher retention and recruitment, with a focus on qualified retired teachers. Connie Stophel reported progress with the Early Learning Subcommittee, noting they have two meetings scheduled before the next full committee meets again. Goal is to increase early learning access and training into an additional 50 centers as soon as possible. Connie Stophel agreed to provide W.C. Gentry the financials of this expansion as soon as possible. Linda Lanier noted that the addition of a behavior specialist is different from what the ELC has done in the past. There was discussion about best way to secure mental health therapist to work with at-risk children in area early learning centers. W.C. offered that there might be available staff and trainers through

the Duval County Public Schools. Skip Cramer's group on School Security has been rescheduled for next week. Renee Brust confirmed that she will provide some meetings times for Skip Cramer as early as possible. W.C. Gentry asked the subcommittees to look at the disconnect between the ELC children and the children progressing through DCPS. Why are the linkages failing?

Connie Stophel has agreed to coordinate a field trip for the committee to see some interesting programs in Baker County with Paula Barton. Terrie Brady reported on truancy and noted that there could be some outreach opportunities to promote career academies. W.C. Gentry commented that FCCJ is opening their new career tracks that might need some coordination with DCPS. The new tracks include Finance, IT and Health. There was consensus that more collaboration on the community college career academies is necessary. On dropouts, Terrie Brady's group is going to look at software that will allow teens to finish school online from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. daily. The subcommittee gave magnet programs a lower priority of attention, noting that other areas were more critical. Challenge schools and teacher initiatives based on performance were discussed, with Terrie Brady outlining some of the pitfalls resulting from lost dollars at the state level: no money for after school work with teachers or Saturday school. Susie Wiles cautioned all of the subcommittee chairs to be accurate and thorough when outlining financial needs for their recommendations. W.C. Gentry and Terrie Brady commented that there is a lack of awareness of the volume of poverty in our county. Linda Lanier concurred and mentioned The State of the

Child research documents that support this position. W.C. Gentry thanked everyone for attending. Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

## **2. Action Items**

Subcommittees will meet and report back to full committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, 2008.

## **3. Discussion Items**

None

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.