



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Education, Truancy, Dropout and Literacy

Subcommittee

MINUTES

OF

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

SCHOOL SECURITY WORKGROUP

January 31, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Education, Truancy, Dropout and

Literacy Sub-Committee

School Security Workgroup

January 31, 2008

9:00 a.m. Meeting

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education Sub-Committee, School Security Workgroup taken on Thursday, January 31, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor, Room 851 - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 9:15 a.m.

School Security Workgroup

Skip Cramer, Chair
Tony Bellamy, Member
Nancy Broner, Member
Bobby Deal, Member
Carolyn Floyd, Member
Joe Henry, Member
Nongongama Majova-Seane
Paul Perez, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

SKIP CRAMER, Chair

TONY BELLAMY, Member

JOE HENRY, Member

CAROLYN FLOYD, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

Nancy Broner

Bobby Deal

Nongongama Majova-Seane

Paul Perez

STAFF:

Misty Skipper

Renee Brust

Alice Checorski

OTHERS PRESENT:

Suzanne Jenkins, Neighborhood Safety Sub-Committee

W. Earl Kitchings, Education Sub-Committee

PROCEEDINGS

January 31, 2008

Education Sub-Committee, Early Learning Workgroup 9:15 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Skip Cramer, Chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m.

1. Purpose of Meeting.

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

Chairman Cramer provided a handout summarizing each of the Subcommittee charters to identify cross-cutting initiatives being addressed by two or more of the subcommittees. Mr. Cramer referred the workgroup to page 71 of the recently released JCCI Quality of Life Study titled "Serious Student Conduct Violations" noting that school superintendents, SROs, State Attorney's Office and principals can give us answers to help with security problems. Representatives present from other subcommittees were invited to share their committee updates. Chairman Cramer will invite representatives from school security, SROs and the Office of General Council to attend the next meeting. OGC will be able to explain the legal parameters for operating within school security.

The State Attorney's Office will be invited to share how well resources are being used and what do they suggest for intervention and law enforcement.

Joe Henry, Law Enforcement Subcommittee, shared the recommendations from the subcommittee's School Safety Workgroup.

Prior to Mr. Henry's report, Misty Skipper discussed the organizational structure of the subcommittees and their respective workgroups with a focus on the potential that some workgroups might overlap. Both Renee Brust and Suzanne Jenkins stated that in the Education Subcommittee and Neighborhood Safety and Stability Subcommittee meetings, questions were raised as to what others are doing with regard to school safety.

To that end, Chairman Cramer invited them to join forces, identify joint issues and provide updates at today's meeting. The workgroup will then identify specific recommendations that would include as detailed a cost analysis as possible.

Mr. Henry reported that the Law Enforcement School Safety Workgroup recommended the review and/or development of school safety plans; use of technology such as metal detectors and video surveillance cameras; and development of a pilot program for mandatory school uniforms to determine if this is an effective tool.

Suzanne Jenkins, Neighborhood Safety and Stability Subcommittee member, reported that they are looking at recommendations from the short-term, mid-term and long range aspects. The subcommittee developed a "weather map" of crime density identifying 11 specific high crime areas, which would be a helpful tool for other subcommittees.

At this time, Carolyn Floyd, Positive Youth Development subcommittee, joined the meeting. Ms. Floyd stated that 8-10% of the students are creating 100% of the problems.

The group discussed the need to develop a Problem Matrix with

priorities for short-term solutions, mid-term and long range recommendations.

Tony Bellamy will request input from the principals to identify specific problems at their respective schools and determine what needs to be addressed now in terms of school safety. Mr. Bellamy will report to the workgroup at the next meeting on February 20, 2008.

Carolyn Floyd, Positive Youth Development subcommittee, reported that parents have not been included in the equation.

The workgroup discussed the need for leadership and accountability and including the SACs and CPACs to encourage neighborhood involvement. The goal is to build a bridge between the school and the community.

Joe Henry recommended holding academic pep rallies, defining SRO roles and responsibilities, create long-term authority to review the Duval County School safety plans and make recommendations.

Ms. Jenkins raised the question as to what the difference in numbers is between graduation and certificate of completion. Chairman Cramer replied that the Education Subcommittee is looking at the dropout rate.

At this time, Chairman Cramer invited comments from the public.

W. Earl Kitchings introduced himself as a member of the Education Relevancy Workgroup. He recommended inviting student leaders so we can hear what the problems are from the ground level. Mr. Kitchings referred to a study completed by Dr. Michael Hallett for the Intervention Subcommittee which included a map of 2004-05 delinquency statistics in Duval County.

In summary, Chairman Cramer said the Problem Matrix the workgroup will develop should include the following areas:

1. **Security guards** (not SROs) - how do we recruit and how do we train them?
2. **Funding** - law enforcement grants
3. **Accountability and leadership**

2. Action Items

Tony Bellamy will report on input from the principals as to what the issues are at their respective schools at the February 20, 2008 workgroup meeting.

Suzanne Jenkins will provide copies of the "weather map" of crime density developed by the Neighborhood Safety and Stability subcommittee.

Skip Cramer asked **City support staff** to provide data from a Times-Union report for 2005-06 on incidents broken out by school.

City support staff will provide charts for Problem Matrix.

3. Discussion Items

Adjournment. Meeting ended at 11:10 a.m.