



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy

MINUTES

OF

Education, Truancy, Dropout &

Literacy

SUB-COMMITTEE

February 5, 2008

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

Sub-Committee

February 5, 2008

1:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Sub-Committee taken on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 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 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
MICHAEL EDWARDS, Member
JOHN FLETCHER, Member
DEBORAH GIANOULIS, Member
CHERYL GRYMES, Member
BILL HODGES, Member
CONNIE HODGES, Member
ROBERT LEE, Member
TOM MAJDANICS, Member
GERLIEVE OLIVER, Member
PERRY ROBINSON, Member
BILL SCHEU, Member
CONNIE STOPHEL, Member

ABSENTEE MEMBERS:

TONY BELLAMY, Member
PASTOR CRISWELL, Member
COUNCILMAN KEVIN HYDE, Member
NONGONGAMA MAJOVA-SEANE, Member
COUNCILWOMAN MIA JONES, Member

STAFF:

LINDA LANIER
RENEE BRUST
ANNA BRADLEY
LYNN RIX
KANDI BEGUE
RACHELLE SUNDY

OTHERS PRESENT:

Senator Betty Holzendorf, Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Jonathan Brice, DCPS
Kathy Graw, JPL
Lucretia Williams, Volunteer
Tia Mitchell, T-U
Pam Paul Dopf, The Community Foundation
Susan Main, ELC of Duval
Donna Cobb, DCPS
Shelley Grant, SAO
Ed Pratt-Dannals, DCPS
Melissa Ross, Dalton Agency
Harris Warren, NBFA

PROCEEDINGS

February 5, 2008

Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Sub-Committee

1:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Gentry called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative – The Jacksonville Journey – Take a Step – Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy Sub-Committee.

Chairman Gentry welcomed the group and thanked them for their willingness to be in attendance.

After covering the basic housekeeping items, the full sub-committee immediately broke into their smaller work groups for a period of 1:15 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. The minutes of those workgroup meetings are in separate documents.

The full sub-committee reconvened at 1:45 and each workgroup presented the recommendations they are developing.

Truancy presented by Jonathan Brice, DCPS with workgroup chair, Bill Scheu. Please see hand out in memo form from Chairman Bill Scheu and Members of the Truancy Workgroup entitled "Subcommittee Recommendations". Changes to this document were discussed in the workgroup break out session and presented to the larger group at this time. These changes included on Recommendation #2 adding one staff person to be a "connector" between the full service schools and truancy efforts. This will increase the fiscal note to \$60,000+. Another recommendation was to change the language from "mapping" to "aligning". On Recommendation #3 there was discussion about changing the lead agency to be the State Attorney's Office and the JUAT to be the lead entity.

Early Learning presented by workgroup chair, Connie Stophel with advisor Susan Main of the Early Learning Coalition of Duval. This workgroup is developing the following recommendations:

1. Adding 25 more centers for coaching.

2. Adding behavioral and mental health pieces.
3. Adding a tracking component with DCPS through the 3rd grade.
4. Adding a PR piece to encourage centers to take on the additional load of becoming a “Guiding Stars” center. Also need to educate parents to demand this designation when placing their children.

It was again stressed that committees need to request the optimal resources for their plan to succeed rather than the bare minimum.

Steering Committee Co-Chair Betty Holzendorf made the following requests:

1. Prioritize recommendations.
2. Don't skimp on cost/resource estimates. We (the steering and funding committees) cannot get the funding if we don't know the needs.
3. Correlate all recommendations to crime and prevention.

School Safety presented by workgroup chair, Skip Cramer. They are working on several recommendations including cost-cutting initiatives and a cost analysis. They are working with Joe Henry from the Law Enforcement/Deterrence Sub-Committee who has some recommendations that this workgroup would back including use of technology and a pilot program for school uniforms. They are developing a problem matrix. They are looking at schools in high crime areas and key factors such as parental involvement, strong social service programs and involvement of CPACs. This workgroup will have specific recommendations in approximately one (1) month.

School Relevancy presented by workgroup chair, Terrie Brady. Their first objective is to recruit and retain teachers. Some ideas being developed are: Scholarships for alternative certifications; Future Educators Association Chapters in high schools along with scholarships; and Better communication (PR) for programs already in place, i.e., job sharing. They would also like to expand the role of the career academy to include a higher level of learning and preparation of a local work force.

The next meeting for this workgroup will be on Challenge Schools. The meeting following that is on Guidance Counselors and then a final meeting to prioritize their recommendations.

At the conclusion of the workgroup reports it was discussed that there is some overlap of the work groups and a lot of discussion about truancy and drop in solutions. However, it is important that the problem of dropouts not get lost in the midst of this overlap.

Chairman Gentry wants the PR people assigned to this committee to attend all of the full sub-committee meetings, not just a portion of the meeting. He feels that there are a lot of projects the PR committee can already be starting on.

Chairman Gentry wants everyone to put their recommendations in writing. If anyone needs help with the writing, he suggests contacting Rachel Davis in the Public Information Division of the City of Jacksonville.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

2. Action Items

None.

3. Discussion Items

None.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.