

**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey
Increasing School Safety Workgroup**

MINUTES

OF

LAW ENFORCEMENT & DETERRENCE

SUB-COMITTEE

INCREASING SCHOOL SAFETY

WORKGROUP

February 28, 2008

**The Jacksonville Journey –
Law Enforcement & Deterrence Sub-Committee-
Increasing School Safety Workgroup**

February 28, 2008

8:41 a.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey –Law Enforcement Sub-Committee, Increasing School Safety Workgroup held on Thursday, February 28, 2008, at Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor – 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida, commencing at approximately 8:41 a.m.

Increasing School Safety Workgroup

Joseph “Joe” Henry, Chair

Paul Perez, Member

Dr. Walter Harris

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIR & MEMBERS:

JOSEPH "JOE" HENRY, Chair

PAUL PEREZ, Member

DR. WALTER HARRIS, Member

STAFF:

MISTY SKIPPER

DANA OSNAC

PROCEEDINGS

February 28, 2008

Increasing School Safety

8:41 a.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairman Joseph Henry called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Chairman Henry began the meeting by appointing Dr. Walter Harris, of the Regional Unit of Florida as a member of the school safety workgroup. Mr. Perez and Ms. Skipper reminded everyone that as a member of the committee Dr. Harris would be subject to the Florida Sunshine Law and would not be able to talk to committee members concerning matters on the committee's agenda outside the meetings.

Approval of the minutes for February 19, 2008 was deferred because they were still being reviewed.

Mr. Perez stated that the Steering Committee decided to fast track the time line and wants each committee to submit its recommendations by the end of March. Mr. Perez stated that the law enforcement committee recommended the workgroups narrow their focus to complete their work in the assigned period.

Ms. Skipper stated that recommendations should be in by March 27, 2008. Mr. Perez stated that the group should have the recommendations ready by March 13, 2008 because the Steering Committee needs to vote on

the recommendations. Mr. Perez suggested that the workgroup should decide on the recommendations by the end of this meeting and that he will communicate it to the full Law Enforcement Deterrence Sub-Committee which would be meeting after this meeting.

Mr. Henry met with John Radcliffe and Mike Herrington of the Duval County Schools who had prepared a list of Duval County School Safety Plan responsibilities that everybody can refer to in order to be on the same page. Mr. Henry suggested, if schools need a police officer for special events that they should get one. For example, each school's Health Department is up to date, and they are practicing and following the school board rules.

Mr. Henry referred to the February 8, 2008 memorandum regarding focus and action items for the School Safety Workgroup which indicates that the Workgroup should work with school officials, school safety officers, and JSO representatives. He said that School Safety Plans should include what is missing from each school and that schools should have more training in the school safety plans. Mr. Henry recommended that schools put together recommendations for more technology. Mr. Henry provided the members with the Duval County School Board guidelines for Staff Emergency Plan, Administration Emergency Plan and Crisis Emergency School Safety Plan.

After reviewing such guidelines, Mr. Perez pointed that the plan does

not cover special event such as Friday Night Football games.

Dr. Harris asked “What does the School Board have in regard to the individual school’s safety plan”?

Mr. Henry presented guidelines for schools such as White House Elementary School, Mandarin Oaks Elementary, and Robert E. Lee High School.

Mr. Perez stated that each school has formulated and prepared its own plan.

Dr. Harris stated that the guidelines refer to forces of nature. Mr. Henry went on to state that they should have procedures for fire drills, bomb threats, kidnapping, robbery, weapons on campus, shooting, and other things of that nature. He suggested that they should focus on the missing element such as, for example, if there are crimes in school or guns brought to school, that School Resource Officers be in a position to handle such situations.

The workgroup suggested that schools should have funds for special events.

Mr. Henry stated that schools need code of conduct. Dr. Harris suggested that such code of conduct should address student in school and what their focus should be.

Mr. Henry stated that the missing piece with respect to school safety

is School Resource Officers (SRO's). SRO's should know their responsibilities and meet with the administration of the schools at which they work. Mr. Perez stated that SRO's should know why they are out there and that each person should focus on his or her responsibility.

Ms. Skipper stated that other groups are looking into improving code enforcement.

Mr. Perez suggested that SRO's do not have plans to coordinate special events, and that should be a focus.

Dr. Harris suggested making Principals responsible because they are the person in charge at the schools.

Mr. Henry suggested that schools develop a special event plan.

Mr. Perez suggested that SRO's get with the Duval County School Board administration and that the School Board set a template for special events for schools to use as guidance.

Frank Mackesy, a member of the Law Enforcement and Deterrence Sub-Committee agreed with the concern that schools have a plan in case shooters are on school premises. He said "Expect the unexpected".

Mr. Perez suggested that the workgroup develop recommendations with a process which school can follow developing special events plans.

The Workgroup agreed it should meet again before the

recommendation deadline.

Adjournment:

Mr. Henry adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:23 a.m.