

County Strategic Planning October 2, 2008

Present: Jan Seitz, Mary DeLuca, Nancy Miller, John Graves, Irene LeCrone, Adam Brown, Linda Brian, Earl Poleski, Doug Schedeler, Patty Kaufman, Ken Toll, Dan Phelan.

Jan began the meeting by welcoming Adam Brown, the County's new Deputy Administrator.

The goal of today's meeting is to look at the next steps for the Education Team's piece of the Strategic Plan.

- Advocacy
 - Come up with a limited number of measures to move towards as a community.
 - Every school in the county is assessing their Kindergarten programs in terms of two standardized methods of literacy readiness.
 - Receiving excellent cooperation.
 - We need a community measure.
- National Study of Student Engagement
 - Includes entry and exit surveys.
 - Linda would like to pilot a program like this in her schools.
 - Entry survey given in 9th grade.
 - Exit survey given in 12th grade.
 - Study shows students' work habits, study habits, etc.
 - Requires a rather large cost/time commitment.
 - J.C.C. will be piloting the program with a percentage of its students this year.
 - If successful, the program will move forward.
- If we are not making progress as a community, then what?
 - Investigate problem areas, (i.e.: math, reading).
 - "The education of our children is the responsibility of the entire community, not just the education system."
- "To have a common goal we have to use a common measure"
 - Focus on one thing—begin somewhere.
 - If we try to focus on the whole picture, then we don't know what we should be doing. It gets too confusing.
- Mathematics
 - Mathematics is a huge issue.
 - So is financial literacy, which is a part of math.
 - "As a society, we have made it very easy to say that "I don't like math" or "I'm not good at math".
 - Dan suggested watching the film "3 Million Minutes".
 - The film tracks several students from several different countries and shows the differences in education between them.
 - Shows the priority of education in the U.S. versus other places in the world.
- Community Involvement
 - "This is what every child should know to start school" is a great conversation to have in order to get the community involved.
 - Applies to all areas, such as: churches, relative care, daycare, and private pre-schools.

Next Steps

- Start working on the most pressing education related issues.
 - Mathematics
- Create a list of talking points so that everybody is on the same page.
 - Mary will talk to Head Start to determine some talking points.
- Keep gaining support from other groups and collaboratives.
- Schedule a time to speak in front of the Board of Commissioners at the November 18 meeting.
 - Make it clear that while we are still concerned and focusing on the whole issue of education, we are going to start with mathematics before moving on to the next area of focus.
 - Clarify how to talk about the A.C.T. measure before presenting to the Commissioners.
 - John has a short PowerPoint presentation which he would like to share with the group, as well as the Commissioners.
 - He will send it to the other team members for review.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 11, 2008, at 3:30p at MSU Extension.

*Respectfully submitted,
Scott Bailey*