

County Strategic Planning December 11, 2008

Present: Jan Seitz, Earl Poleski, Adam Brown, Patty Kaufman, Mary Deluca, Doug Schedeler, John Graves, Connie Poissan, Irene LeCrone, Dan Phelan.

Follow-up meeting after presentation was made to the Board of Commissioners

- What are the expectations of the Commissioners?
 - Did not get much response from the Commission.
 - The Commissioners can give more feedback, if needed.
 - Need to collaborate with others who have similar interests.
- Ed. Report
 - Present an Ed. Report to the Commissioners showing progress in areas of focus.
 - Earl would like the committee to give recommendations to the Commission on how they can help, what they can do.
- Issues
 - Funding is the biggest issue. Anything that can be done to get people to want to live here will help with funding issues.
 - Look at advocacy opportunities between government, legislative, education, human services, etc., to share the same message.
 - Ex: In a particular North Carolina town, businesses wanted to come there because they had strong library, school systems, etc.
- Commission
 - What role can the Commission have in moving education forward?
 - What can we do, as a committee, to make sure they have enough info in order to make it work?
 - What can they have an effect on?
 - They can attempt to apply pressure, at a state level, to get more funding.
 - The Commission needs to know what is wanted, and why.
 - Having the support of County government carries a lot of “clout” for funding sources.
 - The Committee should make periodic reports to the Commission regarding progress.
 - This creates some level of accountability.
 - The Commission wants more educated workers who feel like they can make good money in this county.
 - Will do what they can to “sweep” impediments out of the way.
 - Impediments will be uncovered throughout the process.
 - Board to Board liaison – perhaps a Commissioner could speak at a school board meeting.
 - Examples of how the Commission can help bring groups together:
 - ISD spending too much on transportation; need to spend less.
 - Perhaps Commission could help bring ISD together with JTA to collaborate and share services.
 - ISD doesn’t want to do food service anymore.
 - Perhaps Commission could connect ISD with Department on Aging kitchen to service their schools.
 - Be specific on what is needed from the Commission, and they will tell you if they can help or not.
 - The Commission can put forth a study session to determine what they want from the Education Team.
 - Since the Commission is new to strategic planning, this is a good time to get their input.
 - How much work is the Commission willing to do?

- What is needed for somebody to take the initiative to go to all of the groups and boards (ISD, Chamber, United Way, etc.) and say “Would you be willing to invest in a comprehensive vision for the future of education in Jackson County?”
 - Commit to helping achieve steps one by one.
 - Math and literacy give the most “bang for our buck”.
 - Can still focus on other efforts, but there should be a boost towards these issues.
 - Commit to putting together your specific things aside for the greater good.
 - Focus on one thing at a time.
 - Get press, public, parents, and students involved.
- Next steps
 - Call a summit to narrow down the issues in order to pick a single issue to focus on.
 - Determine the key issue.
 - Adopt a resolution (Baker Board, JCC Board, ISD Board, County, etc) creating an invitation to community and community groups to join in the effort to determine the key issue.
 - Build a coalition and create a focused discussion.
 - Be mindful of people’s time.
 - Who else do we need at the table?
 - Get a “buy-in” to the process.
 - The Commission can help.
 - Put together a concept paper and distribute via email.

The next meeting has not been scheduled.

*Respectfully submitted,
Scott Bailey*