

County Strategic Planning January 23, 2008

Present: Mary Deluca, Earl Poleski, Linda Brian, Michael Gradis, John Graves, Doug Schedeler, Dan Phelan, Patty Kaufman, Dan Phelan, Jean DeLiefde (Fulcrum Group)

Data was presented showing percentage of students proficient on MEAP/MME and ACT tests.

What are the issues? Why are we gathering this information?

How satisfied are the people in the community with our educational system?

What education levels have people in the community attained?

Note: Jackson is low in Bachelor and Masters Degrees. K-12 education is doing a pretty good job.

Students in Jackson County do not uniformly take the ACT.

What is the priority that Jackson citizens place on education? What priority have we conveyed to our children? It will take years of sociological re-programming to fix that. We also have decades of the auto industry telling us that you can make great money with nothing more than a high school diploma.

When things are good economically, people are not interested in going to school. When things start to get bad economically, higher education sees a significant increase in enrollment.

Whose fault is it? Have we failed the system? Has the system failed us?

Getting parents involved is another issue. There are a lot of people who don't want to go back to school, for themselves OR their children, because they themselves had a bad experience in school.

Can we attract the people, recent graduates, to stay here in the area? We want our educated people to stay here and develop our community. If we can provide the points of interest to keep young, educated people in the area, more will come and companies will locate themselves around them.

Where do we go from here? What is our next project?

It was mentioned that Nancy Miller or the Jackson Legacy program should be invited to the next meeting.

Jan Seitz and Linda Brian will meet to form a question set for the brainstorming session at the next meeting. Their meeting will take place at Hanover Horton Elementary on 2/11/08 at 9a.

Plans for the next meeting:

Create a forum on education (county-wide)

Need for pre-K

A longitudinal study following children pre-K through post high school

Strengthening of education K-3rd

"Jackson County Plan for Access to Higher Education"

The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2008 at 3p at MSU Extension Office.