

Alignment Jackson High School Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:00a.m-10:30a.m

Facilitator: Shawna Davie, Dir. of Ed. Initiatives United Way

Recorder: LaKisha Boykin, Alignment Jackson

Members Present

Malcolm Harvey Shae Williams
Carolyn Jolivette Yolanda Kirkland
Curnis Upkins III Natalie Collier
Freddrick Murray Deyanna Jenkins
Jed Oppenheim Ingrad Smith
Nsombi Lambright
Rolanda Alexander
Shawna Davie
Bridget Young Townsend
William Trammell III

Members Absent

Greg Riley Juanyce Taylor
Angela Griffin Nsombi Lambright
Marquis Loving Brenda Johnson
Kimberly Hilliard Laketia Thomas
Arthur Sutton Bishop Knox
Brenda Jackson Ramona Williams
Marquis Lowe Shmea Kelly
Calvin Lockett Shemeka McClung
Elaine Hayes- Anthony
Marquis Loving Cynthia Buchanan

Alignment meeting commenced at 9am

Opening Remarks Dr. Murray

For familiarity purposes each person introduced themselves by giving their name, title, and place of employment.

In lieu of minutes, a brief review of Alignment Jackson Principals of Committee Work was read.

Jed Oppenheim preceded with the community process in discussing the Principles of Committee work #6 which states: Committees do not determine WHAT to accomplish; instead, committees determine HOW to accomplish what JPS has determined is needed through its strategic planning process.

Discussion of Summer Bridge Invitation to Participate

Dr.Murray: We have switched our focus away from Summer Bridge and I'm in agreement with this as we start this process we want it to be seamless across the district.

Shawna: We will shift from Summer Bridge to the Small Learning Communities. We will begin working on the (ITP). This is how we engage the entire community and explain how they can

participate. Two things are clear at this present time. We do not have funding for teachers and we do not have funding for transportation of students. These are two high budget items. If the districts position is that this year is not feasible than we need to switch our focus.

Discussion: We anticipate doing a small Summer Bridge program for about four hours to orient parents to the program and get literature out during the summer.

JPS Budget next year will include title funds for Summer Bridge.

Parent meetings during the summer to help with the transition of both parents and students in providing information

The Summer Bridge program will help students to become familiar with their new school environment.

Multiple orientations will be held maybe three weeks in a row that will have the students visit their high school building.

Practical Next Steps: The highest priorities are the small learning communities, the career fair, and the college tours.

Small Learning Communities

What is it that the community can offer?

What are some of the things the community can help with?

We will need a speaker bureau for freshman seminar. A lot of people in the community want to offer professional development for teachers and small learning communities

Adults need to be acclimated to that process, talk about the team process, and begin working together.

From the non-profit world the district is saying we need people to come in and help the teachers to work in groups and collaborate with others.

One way that the community can help support is by mentoring. We can bring mentors in to help during the year.

Reach 180 has already contacted the district to help mentor and they are excited about engaging with the community.

The first invitation to participate (ITP) we send out will be for the Interactive Career Exploration Fair.

Invitation to Participate

Question: What are the goals of the academy?

Response: Every student should have a personal advocate, know about graduation education options, understand college and career readiness in a small nurturing community

If one of the goals is to have an advocate for every 9th grader, we need to be clear what the focus of mentoring the kids will be.

Question: Will there be training for mentors?

Response: If you are going to work with 9th graders and you are going to respond to the (ITP) the mentors need to be trained on the objectives of the academies.

Question: Will the students be matched?

Response: Different groups specialize in different types of children they will mentor. Each mentoring group has their own particular focus.

One of the things we need to understand with the (ITP) it that it has to be specific as to what the mentors will be doing. It also has to align with the mission of the district.

The first 9 weeks of the freshman academy is actually a preparation for the career fair. Once they go to the Career Exploration Fair they will already know what academy they are interested in.

The teachers work together in a small learning communities and there is more discussion with the other teachers about the students' academic standing in each class.

Every school will have health/ technology and a choice.

Career Exploration Fair

Tameka: If we look at the career fair timeline March 2014 is really close and there is a need for speed. We want to get the sub-committees together. We know we are talking about there being a action planning training committee for the sub-committee to get a clear understanding of how to make it a success.

Brief overview: Initially when you hear career fair you think you go to a booth and they pass out paper. The Career Exploration Fair is interactive. Some examples are: CPR demonstration, Nissan Robotics, and News Stations. The students will be able to touch, feel, and engage in the presentations. We are expecting 2,200 students, 200 teachers, volunteers, and representative from each organization. I will get the link for the Career Exploration Fair and email it to all of you. I think it's very impressive and I want to share it with you all.

What about the Jackson Convention Center for the venue?

Bridget: We are still working with the Jackson Convention Center on an exact date for the Career Fair. The dates that we have considered they are not available. The Convention Center offered Saturday as an option because they have openings on this day. I spoke with them and told them that we would need it during the week for the JPS students. If we want the Jackson Convention center at a discounted rate we may have to work around those dates. We still have other options like the MS Trade Mart and the Coliseum.

Question: Can the career fair be pushed back?

Response: The reason for having the career fair in the fall is so those students can think about their career choices and what career they are actually going to pursue.

The college tours will take place during the spring semester of freshmen year.

We really need the Convention Center to understand how important this is for them to support this Career Fair. The Convention Center is a new venue; and it's a big venue and it's not like we are doing the same old thing. This will be away for them to help to put the spot light on a very different kind of career fair.

We really have to put it out there because this not only benefits us but the children of the city of Jackson. Having the Career Fair in the Spring will not accomplish this goals. Students will already need to have made a career choice by the Spring.

Career Exploration Tactical plan is completed

Jed and Dr. Murray will take the Career Exploration Tactical plan to the Operating Board for approval.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.