



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

5:00 PM

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-120 (Madison Municipal Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Astra Iheukumere; Matthew J. Phair; Jessica Hankey; Dean Loumos; T.J. Mertz and Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd

Absent: 2 - Shiva Bidar-Sielaff and Jenni Dye

Staff Present: Jennifer Lord, Mary O'Donnell, Tariq Saqqaf

Phair called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Loumos, seconded by Mertz to approve the February 12, 2014 minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [33298](#) Chair's Report

Phair discussed Ron Chance returning to the Ed Committee to present report on scaled up JFF model in April.

Phair attended High School Collaboration Reform Project. It is an effort which includes businesses, non-profits, teachers, and principals on how to make reforms in the MMSD High Schools to prepare kids for careers. Pathways to Prosperity report was included in the reading. Phair is the rep from the

Education Committee.

2. [33299](#) Madison Out-of-School Time (MOST) Update

Attachments: [MOST Decision Points 2.pdf](#)

Madison was nominated by the National League of Cities to host a town hall meeting. Numerous cities applied for the town hall meeting. Madison will focus on OST systems and family engagement. Department of Education will attend. There may be 4 smaller meetings in the community then one larger one. Jennifer Lord thanked Phair for forwarding the press release.

The MOST Youth and Family Engagement work group will be coordinating the event. Bayrd asked about the timeline. Lord explained they are looking at August or September. Mertz asked about support from National League of Cities. Lord clarified they would be providing expertise along with the Department of Education but there would be no financial support. Phair asked about press coverage. Lord stated it was on WISC and Wisconsin State Journal online. Hankey asked about networking with other cities in the state. Lord stated not at the moment.

Loumos asked if all cities focus on family engagement. Lord clarified that there were several areas of focus including early childhood, after school and college preparedness. Madison chose to focus on afterschool.

Lord discussed family and youth engagement work group forwarding the survey to coalition members. Data workgroup finalized survey for asset map. Good to get information needed to find gaps in service. The decision matrix was discussed to show which decisions hinge on each other and to provide a general timeline. Data is the beginning and recommendations and definition of quality programs will follow.

Phair asked what data points they were looking for. Lord explained program type, targeting organizations that coordinate programs to avoid duplicate numbers, enrollment vs. capacity, demographic info, race/ethnicity, free/reduced lunch, fee waiver, transportation provided, and time of day. One week in March programs serving elementary age children will be surveyed and the entire month of March will be measured for Middle School age youth. Bayrd asked about capturing holes, there are no before school programs but kids need it for that time of day. Lord further discussed information to be gathered including youth, middle and high school programs, drop in programs and attendance numbers.

Mertz discussed Boys and Girls Club and MSCR doing data points for programs and asked if each school would have data points. Lord stated yes, will map by attended areas for schools. Mertz asked if there would be another survey done in summer. Lord discussed summer being more difficult to survey as the number of programs increases significantly. This year will be academic year and next year MOST will collect data on the summer.

Loumos asked about buy in from groups. Lord explained there was good buy in, not to the point where people will pull away. Possibly in the next few months there may be those who disagree with the focus, etc.

3. [33300](#) Presentation: MMSD Safety and Security-Luis Yudice

Attachments: [MMSD School Safety Practices & Strategies](#)

Luis Yudice from the school district explained his job of overseeing safety in schools. There are 50 schools and he has a feel for what happens in the district and shares that with Kelly Ruppel, Chief of Staff and the Superintendent to keep them up to date. Luis receives direct support from schools working with principals as issues happen and connects with legal and other resources. He problem solves to find the best options. He guides schools with critical incidents. MPD lets them know when there is something the schools need to be aware of. It can be complex to coordinate with 911, principals and staff during a lock down. They also work with other agencies like Centro Hispano, Boys and Girls Club and Madison Metro to help create emergency procedures and staff training. Educational Resource Officers (ERO) are placed in each of the high schools by the Madison Police Department. There are 20 security people to engage students.

In 2006-2007 when Luis started, crime was increasing along with juvenile offenses. They were concerned with school safety and wanted to keep the violence out of schools. Lots of good work went into the decline in crime. The forum group includes Astra, Captain Wheeler, Metro managers, MMSD and schools. In 2007 there were bus incidents. Today they have made progress through collaborations and communication to address issues at transfer points and adding cameras to busses. Metro reports any incidents to police and forwards videos to school so they can talk with families to help police.

Police conduct a conference call Monday mornings with school and Dane County staff to discuss any relevant incidents that occurred over the weekend. This helps them to get in front of any problems. There are also neighborhood intervention programs that place money upstream before violations occur. This leads to huge benefits.

In 2007 the Mayor and County Executive created the Dane County Enhanced Youth Gang Task Force. There are 40 active gangs in the Madison area. There was a homicide case on North Madison near Fordem Ave. They have acknowledged that there is a problem and we were in denial. Community resources have since been mobilized including Mayor and County Executive, not just the Police alone. Community needs to be involved.

How to respond in schools. Some gang members attend schools. The administration drew a line in the sand letting kids know the schools would support them no matter what happened, but they needed to leave gang activity out of the school buildings and surrounding areas. This led to a turning point to overcome barriers. Gangs are still a part of the community, but less active and there are much fewer members. The number of kids referred to juvenile facilities has also declined.

Schools are continuing with Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) to support positive behavior without over doing it. Recognize positive actions. Tiered approach tailored to kids and what they need. Most students work with general things while others need more assistance.

2 years ago trained staff in crisis intervention front end strategies to prevent escalation of situations. Schools make greater efforts to engage families. Sherman principal takes school to the community so families will be involved. They celebrate various things versus just having parents involved for parent/teacher conferences or if there are problems.

There has also been an increased importance on professional development for staff training time. Discussions on engaging children and preparedness for emergencies. Teachers need to know how to respond to emergency situations, not just principals. Other resources are being addressed specifically for students with mental health issues.

Current challenges include achievement gap and homeless students. They have maintained safety of students. Big concern for parents. Safer, crime decreased with a drop in juvenile crime as well. Parents see the news and get concerned. They entrust children to schools and the schools are safe. Crime is not out of control. Some crime can occur anywhere. Parents are concerned about school shootings. Those mass shootings are rare and are often domestic violence related.

Handouts discussed engagement of students, safe neighborhoods, leadership, reaction to community incidents, exchange of information with other agencies, partnerships, increased building security, and high visibility of security personal.

There are 27,000 students in the school district. On a typical day 1 will make a bad decision on any day. The staff needs to respond to contain that incident and minimize potential for escalating into larger problems. Training, protocol and communication of staff will help with prevention of problems.

Bayrd thanked Luis and asked if there was a need for middle ground as they enter juvenile system through schools. Is more crisis assistance needed? Are there levels that could help beyond school, principals or police? Luis responded that yes the crisis model for the mental health system from years ago would be beneficial. Today students with severe mental health issues tend to want to hurt themselves versus others. Need crisis unit to work ahead of time to prevent break down. The model use to focus on middle and high school, not it is providing support to elementary schools as well.

Mertz discussed the option of providing letters of support from the Board of Education and the Education Committee. They are also working on a behavioral education plan (code of conduct) for all students. Luis should be involved and will be added to the committee. The new plan will have fewer exclusionary programs to decrease incidents and provide education support vs. discipline.

Loumos added that the change in plan would require change in practice. Whether an arrest is made or not is a serious question/issue. Schools treat students much harsher that criminal justice system does. Should be an educational issue not a criminal issue. The new plan would help to reduce suspensions, and discrepancies seen now. There are a few kids who actually commit crimes while at school.

Luis mentioned an ACLU report that came out 3 years ago and was critical of policing in schools. That report was used to make improvements in our

schools, provide better training for staff, principals, superintendent, address achievement gap issues and further work with EROs. Educational Resource Officers are contracted for 2 years with the Police. Chief Ray and MMSD wanted balance between schools and Police. This includes principals and EROs to review the situation and to call police only when necessary. Some kids will cause trouble, some may hurt others. Often the brain doesn't fully develop until engaged in something. Show the school cares to help take them aside and help with development.

4. [33301](#)

Presentation: Community Policing and Schools-Captain James Wheeler and Jim Powell

Captain Jim Wheeler joined the conversation and agreed with what Luis had discussed. They do not want kids to go to jail. There is a comprehensive approach that includes working with the community. This is a situation that we cannot arrest ourselves out of it. Prevention is an important focus. 5 officers worked in collaboration with the community and schools. Communication vs. arrest was used to find the best option.

Phair discussed the west district pilot focused deterrence model. This could bring resources to schools. They bring in the worst of the worst and give them all the assistance they need to succeed. Could we do this in schools?

Capt. Wheeler stated yes, SMART policing would be used to focus on those doing the majority of problems. Small percentage of people who create the most problems. For example at West High School between 40-50 kids out of the 2,500 students cause the majority of problems.

Jim Powell does grant writing for the police department. He discussed problem solving and the need for grant money to help the situation. Looking to hire cops trained in trauma informed care. If we can point those children exposed to trauma early in the right direction when the trauma happens it will be much easier for all parties involved.

Iheukumere discussed perceptions vs. reality with school incidents. The first point of contact is the teacher. How do we equip teachers? Is there fear? Are teachers hesitant to assert authority for lack of back up and support. Police are called to schools for a reason. We should equip teachers to handle African American kids' reactions of yelling and fighting vs. others who may cry. The perceptions and actions on various behaviors can also cause problems.

Mertz added that teachers want those tools. Young teachers can be lost, older teachers want tools to handle classroom incidents. Working on trauma informed training and looking at funding options. We do not want to kick the students out, but rather provide support services and program in schools to best help the children. Recognize needs of community partners and make commitment even if it involves public funding.

Iheukumere mentioned the work Madison Police did with Metro drivers. Look at how to tweak that model to train teachers and institutionalize these things when recruiting.

Loumos discussed the small group causing the majority of problems in the homeless populations. They were told to house the "troubled" ones first. It was

a small group that was causing trouble every day. The same is happening in our schools. 30 behavioral referrals weren't working and they wanted to expel a student in 6th grade. Need to re-evaluate/define behavior requirements. Trauma also plays a role in behavior. Need to treat that and deal with it as it happens to and collaborate efforts from community partners to address the increased trauma exposure.

Jim Powell talked about developing programs and resources for City via grants for community policing. Not putting an officer at the door of every school, but preventative based instead.

Bayrd asked about a collaborating level that is working. Metro, Monday morning phone calls, JFF experience. What is successful? Capt. Wheeler listed CPGU, monthly meetings, EROs, county wide conversations regarding kids in the community. Monday morning meetings provide good information as situations over the weekend often transfer into the schools. Police reports, transfer point incidents are discussed in the event they carry over into the schools. Mertz asked if the Monday morning meetings continue in the summer. Yes they do. Loumos added that some issues get brought back the 1st day of school within the 1st hour of the day. Information needs to be acted on properly.

Capt. Wheeler added that middle to high school kids with issues are told what help is available. It's good to share information and build relationships with officer especially if the child is afraid. Look for ways to solve issues and calm things down. Luis listed a Chavez student as an example of someone not attending school because they felt threatened. Jody from Gang Task Force became involved to offer support. Social media helps escalate things as conflicts either begin or continue on Facebook.

Jim Powell discussed the department working on initiatives for officers on community policing to get to know kids. There are limited resources, but looking for partners and funders for the project. Combined City, school, etc to help. The ability to expand this program is limited by funds and resources. Last year 25% of middle school students have mental health issues. Want high school workers, middle school, social workers and JFF to assess at risk youth. Prevention has big impacts. Face to face with officer vs. calls or a violent situation make a difference. Focused deterrence is another initiative focusing on the small number kids causing problems. EROs, social workers, JFF workers identify kids at risk, but police can only do so much. They are looking to a multi agency approach. Youth prevention task force also workforce also works with Ron Chance and Mary O'Donnell.

Mertz asked how many community policing units there were. Saqqaf responded there are 9 at the moment. Mertz asked if there was collaboration with Fitchburg and Town of Madison police. Luis stated that Leopold school works with Fitchburg often and there are regular meetings with officers and an ongoing relationship.

Capt. Wheeler added that Fitchburg is involved in Latino and African American Youth Academy.

5. [33302](#)

Presentation and Discussion: Food Policy Council-Mark Woulf

Attachments: [Madison Food Policy Council March 2013 Goals](#)

Mark Woulf the Food and Alcohol Policy Coordinator for the City was present to discuss the Madison Food Policy Council (MFPC). The MFPC has 23 members with a wide representation to promote collaboration of different food organizations. There is some overlap with Dane County Food Policy Council which includes MMSD reps.

MFPC has 5 working groups which include topics like edible landscape, grocery stores in underserved neighborhoods, food education and food in classrooms. They are looking to collaborate with a Childhood Obesity group for grants to fund programs that focus on physical activity. MFPC would also like to coordinate with the Department of Public Instruction.

MFPC would like to improve the community gardens. CAC has created a robust program on City land with the mission to target low-income individuals, however, more middle and upper income families have become involved. They are also concerned about the sustainability of the gardens.

MFPC provides SEED grants which are small grants for less than \$10,000 for healthy food for all children and improving access to food in Dane County. The focus is on children and United Way is taking the lead. Agencies that apply for SEED grants must address items from the food report. Last time they received 26 applications requesting \$180,000 in funds for the \$50,000 available. They did a great job in stretching the available funds. 10 proposals were recommended for funding.

In the future MFPC plans to increase collaboration, increase access to healthy food and address the connection between trauma and lack of food or lack of healthy food on children in the community.

Bayrd asked if he could share app with the group. Mark Woulf said yes as soon as it is online. Bayrd inquired about working with schools to make local and culturally appropriate meals. Mark Woulf explained that MMSD is under extreme pressure to comply with USDA rules. Schools try to fund appropriately with local food, but it hasn't been a focus in schools yet. They are looking to provide helpful information vs. mandating. They are also looking at ways to review good food procurement policies. The Harvest Medley Program connects with local farmers for seasonal veggies.

Phair expressed concern with what we can do to push healthier foods for school lunches beginning at an elementary school level. Mertz added that food appears to be better at the middle school level.

Iheukumere asked if there were breakfast programs in schools. Mark Woulf explained that yes, the system is designed to have prepared food that is pre-packed and made at a different site. Edible landscape ordinance that's in the works would allow for permits by small neighborhood groups could apply. Safety and maintenance issues could be a concern for schools.

Mary O'Donnell added that Childhood Obesity Coalition committee subgroup works with neighborhood centers, youth programs to support healthy food

options and physical activity. Public Health and GHC partner to help SEED program are attractive to health community. Grants were \$500 for interns and equipment like blenders and food dehydrators could add to food options.

Mark Woulf added that children interact with each other. Snack bars are good and the education component is huge. It is important to show families what to do with healthy food. Principals are concerned about losing classroom time for physical education or healthy food education.

Phair discussed Meadowood Community Center will have a shared kitchen where they will show people how to cook and use healthy food. Iheukumere asked which cities get it and have the best practices. Mark Woulf listed Boston and others that have a lot of private funding. Parts of Michigan also have good programs.

Mark Woulf discussed partnering with health care such as GHC, Meriter, UW Health and St Mary's. Also a partnership with farmers market for fresh food.

Mertz mentioned Silverwood Park in Oregon and asked how to get Madison involved in a similar project. Mark Woulf stated they would need to work to design a program to go with land to connect production and education uses.

6. [33303](#) County Education Update

Bayrd stated the committee meets tomorrow.

7. [33304](#) Future Agenda Items

Phair asked committee members to email him ideas for future agenda items. Iheukumere mentioned bringing non-profits to the table. Loumos discussed the Behavior Education Plan in process of being updated, once complete a rep could come to discuss with the committee.

Bayrd talked about the Trauma Informed Community Summit on April 4th. Iheukumere added that DAIS and Rainbow could also attend and Education Committee meeting.

Phair discussed Ron Chance returning to the Education committee.

Iheukumere mentioned the White Privilege Conference Thursday March 27-29.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mertz, seconded by Iheukumere to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm.
Motion passed by voice vote.