



City of Madison

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

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

5:00 PM

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
Madison Municipal Building
215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room LL-110

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Gloria Reyes; Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Jessica Hankey; Anna Moffit; James Howard; Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd and Michele Ritt

Others Present: Mary O'Donnell, Jennifer Lord, Tariq Saqqaf, Luis Yúdice – Coordinator of School Security Services, Andre Johnson – Dane County Human Services Juvenile Justice Manager, Captain Kristen Roman- MPD Community Outreach, Leah Esser- MMSD Director of Student Physical, Mental and Behavioral and Health, Judge Dan Koval Madison Municipal Court

*Kelly Ruppel attended in place of Jessica Hankey.

Phair called the meeting to order 5:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Howard, seconded by Bidar-Sielaff to approve January 13, 2016 minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sara Colopy spoke to the benefit of Montessori school curriculum and strongly urged MMSD to implement the practices to assist with truancy and behavioral issues within schools.

Tara Von Dalan spoke as a Montessori parent and would like to see it as an option in public schools. There are other public school districts in Wisconsin that use it and it could help solve issues with student behavior. She added that the community is interested in this option.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [42034](#) Chair Introduction

Phair had committee members and presenters do a brief introduction for the group. He explained that the Education Committee consists of three entities that review issues related to education specifically those which they can influence change.

2. [41693](#) Madison Out-of-School Time (MOST) Update

Attachments: [MOST Effective Out-of-School Time Practices](#)

Mary O'Donnell did an overview of the MOST website program finder that was launched last week. Currently programs are entering their information on the site that will be used by families to search for programs. City IT created the content and for those needing Spanish support they can contact 211. Further language assistance options are being reviewed to make the site more user friendly. The information entered will go public May 16th and a promotion campaign will commence at that time. The MOST program finder will be one tool to gather information that will be used to analyze gaps in services and how to best assist underserved areas.

3. [42035](#) Update: MMSD Behavior Education Plan Community Meeting--Anna Moffit

Attachments: [Recommendations Regarding School Policing](#)
[School Emphasis Officers- A Positive Intervention](#)

This item will be discussed at a later committee meeting.

4. [42036](#) Educational Resource Officer/Behavior Education Plan Presentations

Public Comment - Jeff Spitzer Resnick

Jeff focused on the Behavior Education Plan's lack of direct instructions on when and how Police should be involved in the schools. He also discussed concern for students with disabilities and how to share that information appropriately with police officers that may be called to the schools. Communication is key in deescalating situations or preventing unnecessary problems. Arrests should be tracked by school districts as well as the use of seclusion and other practices and this data needs to be monitored.

Leah Esser, the Director of Student Physical, Mental and Behavioral and Health with MMSD, discussed the shift in views within the new Behavioral Education Plan. The approaches are proactive and defined with a focus on restoration. It also provides support to teachers and learning with consistent expectations listed. While suspension and expulsion are available they are not the goal as the focus is on prevention and restoration.

Luis Yúdice, the Coordinator of School Security Services for MMSD, discussed the shift in behavior plan. EROs attend training and use a guidance document that addresses principles, directions to schools on police use. The current system minimized police involvement with minor infractions. Schools should involve police if there is an imminent threat or a case of child abuse or neglect. The Board Policy 4400 defines protocol for when police are involved. Rights must be read, parents must give consent and principal is in the room. Role of EROs is to help maintain a balanced approach for educators and law enforcement. Principal, Captains and EROs meet yearly to discuss progress.

Andre Johnson, from Dane County Juvenile Justice, discussed referrals to municipal and juvenile court. 25% of school arrests are referred to juvenile justice before the Behavioral Education Plan was implemented. There has been a reduction in referrals since. There are disparities in who comes to referral based on race. The more restorative justice is offered the better. The current practice is to provide police with tools to assist students versus making an arrest. They also look to engage students in the process and hold them accountable.

Captain Kristen Roman, Police Community Outreach Captain, discussed the importance of relationships and collaboration. Sharing objectives with police helps the educational piece and creates opportunity to make a difference and cultivate relationships. In discipline it is important to be up to speed with what is actually occurring with students. Kids go to officers and share information. When looking for solutions officers are brought in and there is a paradigm shift along with the role of police. They are now seen as partners at the table. Continuity keeps officers involved in a positive manner. Information from EROs is not shared with other members of police unless there is an imminent threat to safety. Often families disclose pertinent info to EROs, such as if an IEP is in place, allowing police to better assess the situations. EROs are assigned to a school for 4 years.

The committee discussed the impact of the Behavior Education Plan, EROs in the schools and restorative justice work. Questions were answered to give the committee a better understanding of how the practices work and its impact on education.

5. [42037](#) Educational Resource Officer/Behavior Education Plan Discussion

Attachments: [Center for Prevention of School Violence](#)
[NASRO-To-Protect-and-Educate-nosecurity](#)
[Policing in Schools](#)
[SROs Congressional Research Service](#)

This was included under item #4. This item may be revisited in the future.

6. [41298](#) Madison Metropolitan School District/Municipal Court Truancy Report

Attachments: [Fall 2014_Spring 2015 Annual Habitual Truancy Report.pdf](#)

Judge Dan Koval was present to discuss the report. The number of citations dropped with disorderly conducts since the Behavior Education Plan implementation. The MMSD point person refers cases to Judge Koval. He does not choose cases or make referrals to Truancy Court. Judge Koval described what he sees on a regular basis. Judge Koval believes that there are not enough alternative program offered to 9th graders. Many youth that come before the Judge are often overwhelmed with anxiety and depression. There are kids who should be referred to the program but there are also those who should not. What is the real reason behind the truancy issue? This is being worked on at the moment. Finally there are students that require mental health counseling and times when they can only see a therapist one time per month. Journey Mental Health is providing help but depression is not seen as a threat or an immediate need. Quicker assistance and more frequent appointments

would make a big difference. The City did do a grant with Briarpatch and Centro Hispano that added service options for youth coming through the Municipal Court. There is always room for improvement with mental health options especially since it is so prevalent with students and families. The location of counseling and alternative programs can also be problematic as it can require multiple bus routes and over an hour in each direction to attend.

Public Comment- Brenda Konkel

Brenda discussed the letter that is sent out to families when a child has been truant 5 times or more. A homeless family she has been working with received a letter that lists a call to child services and a monetary fine as possible outcomes. School staff also made inappropriate comments to the family in person. This has only created more stress on the family. The letter also gave short notice for the meeting day and time with no information on rescheduling. She suggest that MMSD work on the wording of the letters, do a better job of communicating and work to address needs of students and families before it gets to Judge Koval.

7. [41694](#) Community Schools-Update and Letter to Superintendent

Attachments: [Draft CS letter.doc](#)

Phair referred to a press release listing Leopold and Mendota Elementary Schools as the Community Schools for 2016-2017.

The letter of support from the Education Committee to Superintendent Cheatham highlighting initiatives to collaborate on will be forwarded.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Howard, seconded by Ritt to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. Motion passed by voice vote.