



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

5:00 PM

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
30 W. Mifflin St
10th Floor

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Nichelle Nichols; Anna Moffit; James Howard and Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd

Absent: 1 - Gloria Reyes

Staff Present: Tariq Saqqaf

Phair called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Howard, seconded by Bayrd to approve the November 9, 2016 minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [45398](#) Introductions

This item was skipped.

2. [45399](#) Homeless Youth in Madison: Current Status, and Briarpatch Shelter Program-Casey Behrend, Briarpatch Executive Director

Attachments: [Hidden In Plain Sight](#)
[Briarpatch Youth Shelter](#)
[Briarpatch Homeless & Runaway Youth](#)

Casey Behrend the Executive Director of Briarpatch discussed homelessness issues concerning youth. The "Hidden in Plain Sight" report focuses on homeless students in America's public schools. The entire report can be viewed at www.civicenterprises.net. The number of homeless students has doubled since the 2006-07 school year.

The Briarpatch shelter in Madison has 8 beds for homeless youth for approximately 28 days each stay. The goal is to assist youth in gaining stable housing and accessing other resources. However, not all youth Briarpatch works with are interesting in participating in the shelter program and complying with the rules. Briarpatch is working on sharing the shelter information with the community to better assist homeless youth. Casey suggests educating school staff on the warning signs of homelessness in students. Recognizing these signs would move students to resources more efficiently.

3. [45645](#) Transition Education Program (TEP) Presentation

Attachments: [TEP Brochure](#)
[MMSD TEP](#)
[McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.pdf](#)

Amy Noble and Jani Koester from MMSD were present to discuss the Transition Education Program (TEP). The goal of TEP is to reduce barriers to school enrollment and achievement so children from families who are experiencing homelessness have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in school. This is done with a focus on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2015 and the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY).

The definition of homelessness is challenging. HUD and the Department of Education agree on the general notion: A person who lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. HUD limits it to living on the street, shelter or transitional housing. The Department of Education includes hotels, motels, doubled up with others as well as temporary homelessness due to domestic violence or natural disasters. This becomes further complicated when the definitions are tied to funding.

The system could be improved by human services agencies looking at families as a whole including a focus on children and their education. Shelter staff could take more of an interest in children and truancy. A school age child in the shelter during the day should spark a call to school or a discussion with the child regarding school attendance.

Professional development time for school staff is also very competitive and homelessness does not always take priority. Further education for school staff on homeless students could improve the situation.

4. [45400](#) Community Schools Update

Nichelle Nichols discussed the progress of the 2 community schools at Mendota and Leopold. Resource Coordinator positions are being covered for this academic year and part of the next academic year. The Resource Coordinators have completed needs assessments. Each of the community schools will use this data to drive programs and services to be offered.

The Northside Early Childhood Zone has been a part of discussion with the Mendota community school. There is also discussion of the Brentwood neighborhood and how it falls within the boundaries of both the Mendota Community School and the Northside Early Childhood Zone.

5. [44988](#) Check-in regarding new activities or updates that impact City/County/MMSD

Moffit discussed the 1st ERO Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be February 23 at 5 pm. There are 3 School Board members and 9 community members on the committee.

Nichols discussed Justified Anger Education group is organizing with a focus on transitions to help make transitions from elementary to middle to high school more seamless.

Bayrd discussed immigrant policy discussions at the county level. There is also conversation on the possibility of an affordable housing project on property owned by the county.

Bidar-Sielaff discussed further immigrant initiatives on the city side.

6. [44992](#)

Planning Topics/Agendas for Remainder of 2016-2017 Academic Year

Attachments: [Education Committee 2017 Schedule.doc](#)
[2017 topics - City of Madison Education Committee.docx](#)

Since there was no January meeting the transportation discussion will be moved to the March meeting. The Northside Early Childhood Zone will also be discussed at the March meeting. The April meeting will consist of ERO updates from workgroups and a MOST update. The May meeting will include the Truancy Report from Municipal Court and MMSD and possibly another Community Schools update. The June meeting will focus on Community Partners – Facility Use and possibly Food Policies. The July meeting can be used to discuss further Food Policies if not completely covered in June and additional updates from MOST or Community Schools if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Howard, seconded by Bidar-Sielaff to adjourn at 7:06 pm. Motion passed by voice vote.