City of Madison

Meeting Minutes - Approved
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 9, 2018   5:00 PM   **Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.**
30 W. Mifflin Street, Room 1000B

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Shiva Bidar-Sielaff; Matthew J. Phair; Nichelle Nichols; Nicki Vander Meulen and Michele Ritt

Absent: 3 - Nick Zavos; James Howard and Carousel Andrea S. Bayrd

Others Present: Mary O'Donnell, Tariq Saqqaf, Nathan Beck

Phair called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bidar-Sielaff, seconded by Ritt to approve the February 14, 2018 minutes. Motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **50623**   Presentation and Discussion Regarding System Gaps Identified in the Opportunity Youth Project Report, Ricardo Jara, MMSD

    Phair started the discussion and referred to Ricardo Jara from MMSD for further information. Jara discussed opportunity youth and efforts to reengage them in the educational system. MMSD is currently reviewing the process to identify gaps and potential solutions to include further communication and coordination with community partners.

2. **50624**   Presentation and Discussion Regarding Opportunity Youth, Andre Johnson, Dane County Human Services

    Andre Johnson from Dane County Human Services provided further information regarding opportunity youth and how the system currently works. There may be overlap in total numbers of youth listed in referral data. There also may be a breakdown in communication within individual schools regarding when and how to share information. The goal is to review current policies and procedures and look for ways to help improve communication and streamline the process for all involved. Currently there is a requirement for

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school district and court to provide notice if a petition is filed for a student.

Cross-system communication is important when multiple agencies coordinate efforts to assist youth. It is difficult to share information with everyone at the same time while respecting confidentiality requirements.

Focus points to improve future opportunity youth engagement
-Support youth by providing information in a timely manner to avoid delays. Privacy concerns must be addressed as communication and programming are reviewed. Currently a case manager may have information, but other school staff may not receive the same information or will get information at a much later date.
-Address the underlying cause of truancy. Evaluate the situation for individual students and their families before they reach the 10-day threshold.   There may be valid reasons youth are unable to arrive at school on time. Some may need to get younger siblings ready to go to school, there may be family health problems, or they may lack of access to reliable transportation. Addressing the root causes of truancy can help to eliminate students reaching the threshold and becoming involved in the court system all together.
-Create programs with an open door environment. Some youth may not immediately fit in or choose to participate, but the program should still have an open door and try to engage their participation. The process can take time. There needs to be the assurance that youth can come back and participate when they are ready and able. Prohibiting youth that act out or do not engage only adds to the feeling of isolation.
-Identify what youth want and need. Include youth voices in the process and address gaps in current and proposed systems.

ADJOURNMENT

Quorum was lost at 5:56 pm.