



Education Subcommittee
Meeting #2
March 15, 2010

Attendees: Deborah Williams, Facilitator. Judy Schroeder, Jeannie Gough, Sharon Mohn, Marsha Mayes Burton, Chris Burba, Steve Leach, Kevin Dunlap and Christie McCravy.

The group discussed each key priority and how they plan to address it. Suggestions include:

1. More funding for smaller classes and more services

The group will have a community wide forum/presentation on Monday, April 12, 2010, by those in the community working on this issue. Flyers need to be developed to entice parents and attendance. Maybe serve food/have a reception. Guests from each of the agencies below will be invited:

- Kentucky Youth Advocates (Christie will contact)
- Jefferson County Public Schools (Chris Burba confirmed that Bernard Minnis, Patt Todd, Devone Holt and _____) have confirmed their attendance.
- Louisville Urban League (Christie McCravy confirmed that Kevin Fields has confirmed his attendance).
- Louisville Branch of the NAACP (Kevin Dunlap will contact).

Groups will be asked what they are doing and how residents of Smoketown/Shelby Park can get involved.

Other Action Steps:

- a) Conduct best practice research on how other neighborhood based groups have addressed this issue in their communities (Sharon Mohn will work on this).
- b) Recommend strategies to be included in QLAP for the committee to consider/approve.

2. The voice of the youth is heard and listened to

The group first moved the SBDM item under Priority #4. Chris Burba and Sharon Mohn will talk to Sheronda at Meyzeek about Neighborhood Youth Boards – how they work, what they do, how they are funded or sponsored, etc. The question came up: Are Changemakers the new Neighborhood Youth Board? Differences? Similarities? More research will be conducted on this topic.

3. Mentoring and Tutoring

The group felt strongly that the children in the community want and need mentoring

Action Steps:

- a) Judy Schroeder volunteered to research what is available at all education levels because MUW is working on this issue. Chris Burba also will provide information on JCPS.
- b) Info needed includes:
 - Utilization rates,
 - Outreach efforts,
 - Parent involvement,
 - Success rates
- c) Info also will be provided on programs available in the city but not in the Smoketown/Shelby Park neighborhoods.
- d) Recommend strategies to be included in the QLAP.

4. Schools and families working together

How can you deliver the social message that “school is cool?” Judy explained “digital storytelling” and discussed the power of parents/caretakers recording a positive story for their children. How is the message marketed for comprehension to parents from various backgrounds? Does the Site Based Decision Making group (SBDM) represent all parents? Parents need to realize that they are the primary mouthpiece for instilling the mindset that education has value.

The group asked for research on the Robbie Valentine Foundation, a program by ex-basketball player Robbie Valentine that provides various incentives for children to stay in school. Jeannie will bring back research on how any of his programs may complement/leverage/perform in the area.

5. Community and church involvement

Marsha Mayes-Burton and Steve Leach will bring back research on programs targeted at youth. Info will include: utilization rates, outreach efforts, parent involvement, success rates, etc.

6. Extra-curricular Activities

Marcellus Love’s dance group was identified as a positive program in the community. Christie will talk to Lawrence about other community programs as well as discuss with the manager of the Shelby Park Center.

Deborah then began to discuss what the group could use as an “early win.” Some suggestions included:

- Creating a “Story Day” combining digital storytelling as a launch to initiate involvement in the Library’s Champion program, where children receive a backpack of “goodies” after reading 10 books. The day could be held at the park for families, where the message of education having value is delivered and food/fun is provided.
- Use funds to provide stipends to mentors, e.g., the “LINK” program.
- Survey what is wanted in the neighborhood.
- Start a book club for youth and parents to begin open dialogue.
- Retreat for youth and parents or a lock-in. Event would give parents the opportunity to tell their children their dreams for them, the “what I want for you” message.
- Create a parents network and have Changemakers video (paid through a stipend - Keishanna can provide more info). This would be followed by a free family movie night at the park, with the Changemakers video being the opening production.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 1, 2010 at PCC.