

Leading Practices in Urban Education Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 26, 5 PM
Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology

Team Members Present for Orientation Meeting

Santria Brown, Parent of Students in Lynchburg City Schools (snicholeb87@gmail.com)
Antonio Davis, Program Director, Jubilee Family Development Center (citizendavis55@gmail.com)
Chris Glover, Director of Strategy and Programs, Beacon of Hope
Roger Jones, Chair, Dean, College of Education, Leadership Studies, and Counseling, University of Lynchburg (jonesre66@gmail.com)
Muriel Mickles, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Central Virginia Community College
Taylor Morgan, Senior, Heritage High School/Central Virginia Governor's School (taylormorganhhs@gmail.com)
Tamara Rosser, Director of Human Services, City of Lynchburg
Elise Spontarelli, Executive Director, Vector Space
Lloyd Tannenbaum, Retired Director of Rivermont Schools at Centra Health

Team Members Unable to Attend Orientation Meeting

Anthony Andrews, Assistant Director, Peakland Preschool Program and Fireman, City of Lynchburg (Anthony.andrews@lynchburgva.gov)
Nick George, The Listening, Parents of LCS Student (welcometothelistening@gmail.com)
Michelle Goodwin, Associate Dean for Residential and Licensure Programs, College of Education, Liberty University
Karl Loos, President, Lynchburg Education Association and Teacher at P. L. Dunbar Middle School for Innovation
Kate Sigler, Director of Administration, Lynchburg Legal Aid Society
Todd Swisher, Former Deputy Chief of Police, City of Lynchburg

Agenda

Introductions

After introductions and a review of team members, there was discussion around whether or not there was any group not represented on the team. It was suggested that a student from one of the LCS alternative programs be identified and asked to join the team. Chris Glover agreed to talk with leadership at the Fort Hill School to identify a student.

Charge from City Council and the School Board

The charge given this team was reviewed and discussed. The charge is noted below.

- Leading Practices in Urban Education -- will study emerging trends in PK-14 urban education and identify opportunities for Lynchburg to expand and enhance current practice and to take advantage of successes of other school systems. This subcommittee will also review research on best and leading practices in preparing school personnel on how to achieve positive outcomes for students in an urban educational environment.
 - Deliverable: This subcommittee will create a report outlining strategies that may assist with specific challenges identified by the Task Force that the City's urban educational environment faces.

Team Communications and FOIA

Since this team was initiated through two public bodies, work and communications of the group are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Team members were encouraged to create a separate email address to handle all Team correspondence. Members will share emails they want to use.

Process

The process to be followed will be set by the team. The first topic was to address meeting days and times. Members present decided to stay with Thursday meetings at 5 pm for the near future. Several sites for meetings were discussed and included Central Virginia Governor's School, Central Virginia Community College, and Vector Space. Team members were comfortable with all three and suggested rotating meetings.

Team members were asked to think about how citizens and groups can have access to the team to share ideas or to ask questions. Members will share their thoughts and will discuss at the next meeting.

Access to Research on Urban Education will be important. The chair agreed to discuss the possibility of allowing team members access to a research database at the University of Lynchburg. Whether or not this is possible will be determined before the next meeting. Members of the team were also encouraged to research articles as they have time. If members come across an article they believe would be beneficial, they will share it with the chair who will forward to all other team members.

Members of the team who are able may be asked to visit sites in other localities that have implemented successful urban initiatives. Potential sites will be explored in future meetings.

Protocol

A brief discussion around protocol occurred. Such procedures will be identified at the next meeting. It was noted that it is important for each member of the team to have an equitable voice in team discussions. Furthermore, it was noted that all team members share equal responsibility for this effort.

The chair also discussed the importance of the team developing into a real team/high-performing team. Many teams actually function as a working group with each team member having individual responsibility. Teams rarely accomplish significant results as a working group. It was noted that significant effort will be made to establish a common purpose, common goals, and a joint working approach for which members will hold themselves mutually accountable.

Framework Documents

While the team task is to provide thoughts and ideas on the future of urban education in the city, the team must realize that education is a state responsibility with local responsibility vested in the school board. City Council is responsible for local funding.

There are certain frameworks that must be followed. Several of the frameworks were identified, and a link was provided to access and review those frameworks. The frameworks included the following:

- Standards of Quality (<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/quality/index.shtml>)
- Standards of Accreditation (<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/accreditation/>)
- Profile of a Virginia Graduate (<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/index.shtml>)
- Current and Pending General Assembly Legislation (additional information forthcoming)

Next Steps

The next meeting of this team will be Thursday, October 10 at 5 PM. The meeting will be held downtown at Vector Space. Directions and parking information will be shared before the next meeting.