

Education Taskforce

Meeting Minutes

September 17th, 2019

Present: J.J. Cole, Laura Hamilton, Walter Virgil Jr., Paul Kee, Charlotte Lester, Kimberly Dyke-Harsley, Dr. Owen Cardwell, Nana Manu.

Next meeting: Tuesday October 15th, 6pm – 9pm, Extra Solutions Staffing (645 Oakley Ave Upper Level, Lynchburg, VA 24501)

1. Announcements

October 1st at 1pm – City Meeting on the Educational Taskforce at the Governor’s School (3151 Wards Ferry Rd, Lynchburg, VA 24502)

2. Discussion

- Measuring commonalities within the local community centers.
- Beacon of Hope’s [Future Centers](#) offer college scholarships and other developmental tools to LCS high school students.
- There is a need to include adaptive lifelong learning pathways example; [Virginia Tech’s Innovation Campus](#) due to Amazon’s HQ center in Virginia. Virginia Tech is focusing on reaching other cities such as Lynchburg and Fairfax.
- Proposed representation of the Education Taskforce to the Lynchburg Education Foundation in Lynchburg would not be initiated after discussion.
- The Education Taskforce needs to find out
 - What community groups are going to be committed to.
 - There’s also a need to focus the strengths of each center.
 - Creating data needed in order to create the proper impact.
 - Using scientific approaches and strategic methodologies in order to create sustainable pathways for success in order to accomplish the main goal.
 - Capitalize and focus on working with a set number of centers.
 - Leverage the strengths of the organizations that have highly educated individuals.
- Equity taskforce has data and information about the Lynchburg community (this can aid the education taskforce). The assessment of that information is also available.
- There’s a need for capacity building for organizations/non-profits who have the desire but no ability to do the work.
 - Employ systems thinking which will include connecting the dots via their strengths
 - The result of this taskforce must be engrained and anchored in the community centers around collective outcomes.
 - We need to find out what the outcomes/measures are from the various centers, churches, counselors, organizations etc.

- Adapt/create a collective impact model and a strategic plan to make sure there are success stories.

3. Action Items

- Find the top 5 collective impact models within the city.
 - Public education is one measure in the collective impact model
 - Making sure 3rd grade kids experience concept mastery and grade reading scores. Fact: up until the 3rd grade kids are learning to read, and after they are reading to learn. Instead of homework help, we should provide concept mastery.
 - We also need to create structures of communication for the instructors to see the need. Normalizing success within the homes, setting the expectations within the families and children. Getting colleges students to invest in high school students. Creating training for these college students for them to be effective mentors.
 - Collective model of training for those who will do the work. Having the college campuses train the community centers to set the expectation and help in engraining the focus and making it a success.
- Book Recommendation: How Children Succeed by Paul Tough