



Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP)

JSEP Monthly Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 3, 2023 9:00am – 11:00am

<https://youtu.be/2UvvrTBTgaw>

The meeting will be streamed live and recorded for the public on YouTube.

MINUTES

Members and Guests in Attendance

Superintendent Mohammed Choudury
Mrs. Sharon Merriweather
Dr. Monica Goldson
Mr. Richard Stevenson III
Dr. Tracey Durant
Chair Grace Reusing
Mr. Leonard Webb

Mr. Marc Shindler
Mrs. Kimberly Pogue
Ms. Melanie Graves
Mr. Nick Moroney
Ms. Hilma Munson
Ms. Danyelle Jones

- I. Welcome and Roll Call – *Chair Grace Reusing*
 - Melanie Graves called the role and noted that there is a quorum.
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - Motioned by Mrs. Merriweather and seconded by Mr. Stevenson, April 2023 minutes were approved as submitted
- III. Public Comment - N/A
- IV. Youth Feedback
 - Student representatives from BCJJC, Cheltenham / Noyes, WMCC, and CHHS participated in the meeting via Google Meet. Each student was able to comment on their JSEP school experience. They highlighted areas that have been helpful for them, as well as, areas that they view as in need of improvement. Board members were able to ask them questions regarding such topics as post-secondary and certification opportunities, access to books, classroom instruction, and goals for their futures.
- V. Spotlight on Schools - Career Fair presented by Ms. Danyelle Jones
 - *See attached presentation*
 - Ms. Graves asked Ms. Jones to talk about a bit more about Youth Works. Students were able to sign up for summer jobs that will be waiting for them when they return to the community. Superintendent Pogue indicated that Marc Shindler is working with the DJS team to ensure that the documents that

students will need (Social Security Card, Birth Certificates). Chair Reusing asked if there is a waiting list for the program. Ms. Jones explained that the day of the career fair was the last day that Youth Works was taking applications for the summer job program. Chair Reusing asked if any statistics will be kept regarding how many youth will transition into the program. Superintendent Pogue indicated that JSEP will follow up.

- Chair Reusing asked if the career fair can be duplicated in other places. Superintendent Pogue indicated that opportunities are provided on a smaller scale, but JSEP is exploring ways that career fairs can be held at other sites.
- Superintendent Pogue and Ms. Graves agreed that the job fair also helped staff make connections with community providers that could result in partnerships that will be useful to students in the future

VI. Superintendent Report - *Mrs. Kimberly Pogue*

- Full Report Attached
 - Chair Reusing asked if other schools will begin going to school in cohorts or by grade. Superintendent reported we are working to ensure we have plans in place to address concerns and issues as they will arise. JSEP is trying to collect data and put supports in place as behavior issues or other issues occur, so the fidelity of project will not be compromised.
 - Mr. Moroney suggested that the youth might feel better off if they could keep going in the unit rather than being removed when an issue occurs. They could possibly have some time away and then come back to the classroom. If group life and JSEP work together to address the issue with the help of a much more robust set of services from mental health. Mr. Maroney indicated that routinely the services are fairly barebones that address the symptom rather than the true issue. Whether contracted or in-house the services should be paid for and in place because mental health presence needs to be seen in the school every day in order to respond and assist. If mental health is more involved then it would send the message to youth that they do not have to act out to get attention. Chair Reusing indicated that JSEP does not have the budget for that. Mr. Moroney indicated that it should be the responsibility of DJS. Mr. Schindler indicated that this is a larger conversation including how we respond to youth, i.e. programming, people who can relate and respond to youth. There was a discussion regarding operationalizing Positive Youth Development at the DJS Leadership Conference and Strategic Planning session that was held earlier in the week.
 - Mr. Maroney indicated that programming is helpful and important. Mental health is very important as well and the focus should not be completely on security. The mental health dynamic needs to have more people addressing mental health issues.
 - Superintendent Kim indicated that the school psychology positions should be posted soon and that psychological services contracts are out for all facilities.
 - Chair Reusing suggested that board members need to start thinking about whether or not the mental health piece is critical for the school day and then how the board advocates for more funding to provide the services. Mr. Stevenson indicated that it should be collaborative with DJS and an individualized plan that everyone is aware of for the individual youth. Mr. Moroney indicated that in the past there was a service provided contracted by DJS to be in the school at CYDC. Chair Reusing followed up by stating that if it is a serious need then JSEP may need to look at funding it.

VII. Executive Director's Report - *Ms. Melanie Graves*

- Full Report Attached
 - An issue was recognized with the data that Ms. Graves provided from HR related to vacancies rate. Ms. Graves indicated that the corrected data would be provided via email when the minutes of the meeting are sent out.
 - Superintendent Pogue indicated that JSEP is seeing issues with delayed start dates for candidates due to the end of the public school year. She also indicated that we are working to offer incentives for new employees in facilities which it is difficult to hire.

- o Mr. Maroney asked Mr. Schindler if there is a consideration for legislation to address the need for recruiting education, and vocational staff designed to work with the youth population that JSEP serves. Mr. Schindler indicated that it is a relevant point that needs further conversation and consideration for educational staff as well as other DJS staff.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- Tracking Student Attendance - Mrs. Kimberly Pogue
 - * Based on feedback that was provided from the last JSEP board meeting, JSEP has worked with Operations to develop a form that will be used to identify individual students' class attendance such that removal from class for incidents, medical appointments, meetings with therapists, etc. will be documented.
- Board Goals - Ms. Melanie Graves
 - * Ms. Graves summarized the work that has been done on the the JSEP Board Goals thus far. She then asked the Board's permission to hand over the remaining work that needs to be done to create standards for the goals to the JSEP leadership team. Chair Reusing approved that suggested, and then asked members of the Board to consider becoming involved in the work. Chair Reusing specifically asked that at least two Board members become involved.

IX. Board Members' Remarks

X. Adjournment

- Mrs. Merriweather motioned, and Mr. Stevenson seconded the motion - The meeting adjourned

Upcoming Meetings

2023:

- o 6/7/23 - <https://youtu.be/C6C0iP53DA8>
- o 7/5/23 - <https://youtu.be/MMLDLUVKAEA>
- o 8/2/23 - <https://youtu.be/D-5f9qy2G2Y>
- o 9/6/23 - <https://youtu.be/D9rBBF3eQ6o>
- o 10/4/23 - <https://youtu.be/eZC04MxlGFU>
- o 11/1/23 - <https://youtu.be/AVFZTK-plLc>
- o 12/6/23 - https://youtu.be/o_GtvD3bRQ

Staff Contact:

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