



Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP)

JSEP Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 7, 2023

<https://youtu.be/C6C0iP53DA8>

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

MINUTES

Members and Guests in Attendance

Mrs. Sharon Merriweather
Mr. Richard Stevenson III
Chair Grace Reusing
Dr. Sanjay Rai
Mr. Marvin Stone
Ms. Hilma Munson

Sec. Vincent Schiraldi
Mr. Leonard Webb
Mrs. Kimberly Pogue
Ms. Melanie Graves
3 Students from Treatment Centers

I. Welcome and Roll Call – Chair Grace Reusing

- Chair Reusing welcomed everyone, expressed appreciation to Dr. Goldson for her service to the board, and welcomed Dr. Sanjay Rai to the board
 - . Melanie Graves called the role and noted that there is not quorum.

II. Approval of Minutes- will need to be moved to a meeting with a quorum.

III. Public Comment: No Public comment

IV. Superintendent Report - Mrs. Kimberly Pogue

- Full report attached. Welcome to Sharon Williamson, our new management associate at headquarters
- Dr. Rai asked if there was an opportunity for summer coding courses. He described a program they have at MC called Coding Your Way Out. JSEP will be offering a coding class in the fall and looks forward to partnering with Dr. Rai.
- Chair Reusing is happy about the connection and is interested in having JSEP pursue more partnerships with community colleges where students can enroll while detained but continue in those schools when they are released.

V. Treatment Students' Reports

- Green Ridge student, HS, reported that his experience has been great and that he feels school has helped him a lot to be where he needs to be. He is earning credits for the 11th grade. While school is working well for him, he believes improvements can be made for students who have a hard time concentrating. He thinks this can be accomplished through more interesting, hand-on work. Sec. Schiraldi asked about school running by course instead of unit and HS thought this was working well at Green Ridge. Superintendent Pogue asked about what certifications he would like to see offered to which he replied cosmetology.
- Backbone student, AH, said his experience with education was ok but that teachers needed help by having more interesting things to do and more hands-on activities. There needs to be more help for the students who don't understand, more interesting topics, and more breaks. He felt they needed more mental health available during school. He is interested in his GED but frustrated by his inability to take all his practice tests and the final test. He explained that other kids had been able to do it but for some reason they were not allowing him to. He said this has to do with a lack of staff. He explained that when this happens to some students they start flipping desks and then do not come to school. Superintendent Pogue apologized and told him she would look into it. She asked what he would like to do once he earned his GED. He would like to move to the cabin where he can stay there and do college classes online and go to Garrett.
 - Chair Reusing asked if it was DJS or education staff that was causing the problem and expressed frustration that the students may not be getting to take their GED tests before being released. Superintendent Pogue will call Ms. Snyder and ask.
 - Mr. Stone expressed the need for mental health to be in schools during the school day to help stabilize the kids so they can return to class. Superintendent Pogue explained that JSEP is working with the DJS partners to ensure students have mental health services and that JSEP is trying to fill a school psychologist position that would help provide more mental health services at Backbone. Chair Reusing wondered why JSEP didn't put it in their budget to hire practitioners to provide mental health during school instead of relying on DJS. She feels the Board needs to address this issue. Mr. Stone shared that he had some expertise in this area which he would share with Mr. Maroney. Mr. Stevenson thought this should be discussed in committee or executive session to figure out how to move forward. Chair Reusing expressed that we only have one committee with two board members serving on it so the committee may not be the place for this discussion. Mr. Domenici observed that the two questions may be-how does the Board make decisions and how do DJS and JSEP work together to make sure we keep the students at the center of the discussion. He thought before the schools take on additional functions, we should look at how and whether mental health support can be provided from 7am to 7pm. All mental health clinicians should be student centered in school or not.
- Cullen student, TJ, said she is in the 12th grade and therefore it is hard for her to get help with her classes. She is taking Spanish and English 12 on Apex and Algebra II in person. She explained that she can't get help with Spanish because none of her teachers know it. She will also need to do a little summer school to finish.
 - Superintendent Pogue explained that there is supposed to be a certified teacher on Apex to help students. She is going to look into this. JSEP is also purchasing a service called TutorMe that will provide on demand tutoring to all student in all subject areas.
- Superintendent Pogue thanked all student for their participation and let them know how incredibly important their input is.

VI. Executive Director's Report - Ms. Melanie Graves

- Full report attached.
- Chair Reusing thanked Ms. Graves for her contribution to JSEP and let her know how much she appreciated working with her. She then welcomed David Domenici.
- Secretary Schiraldi also thanked Ms. Graves for help with his transition. He welcomed Mr. Domenici and talked about how they have worked with each other in the past. He said David's role will be different from

Ms. Graves in that he will also be working with community and transition. He went on to say that they are creating bonus structures for hard to fill JSEP vacancies and discussed the library installation on the living units at BCJJC by Freedom Reads, Dwayne Bett's non-profit organization. He hopes to expand these libraries to other facilities.

- Mr. Domenici stated that he had started in the position about 5 minutes before the meeting; he was so new he didn't yet have a computer. He is grateful to be here and to be able to support Kim. He hopes to break down agency barriers so she can focus on giving kids a spectacular education for 6-7 hours a day. He knows we can make that happen. To the board he said he is looking forward to working with them and thankful for the opportunity to do what he can. He grew up in Silver Spring and has looked forward for the opportunity to work in Maryland.
- Superintendent Pogue also thanked Ms. Graves for her hard work: making sure the smart boards were all installed, keeping track of all training, and keeping the headquarters staff focused and supported. All is greatly appreciated. She wanted to assure Ms. Graves that she is always welcome at the Thursday staff meetings. Superintendent Pogue also welcomed Mr. Domenici and looks forward to working with him and to his support and partnership.
- Mr. Stevenson thanked Ms. Graves on behalf of the education staff for her hard work and said that she will be missed. He also welcomed Mr. Domenici and looks forward to working with him.

VII. Unfinished Business and Standards Committee

- Chair Reusing discussed the need for a legislative committee and a transition subcommittee. She said that they need board members to step up and be part of the committees.
- Chair Reusing mentioned that in light of the staffing crisis in JSEP, Mr. Leone is looking for way to offer 10 month contracts as opposed to only 12 month and this will require legislative action over the next couple month. This will need to be done in subcommittee meeting before being brought back to the board. She asked if there were other questions and then thank the students for their participation.
- Dr. Rai said there were common threads through the students' presentations and he felt it was important to follow up in strategic manner so a year from now we are not in the same place.
- Mr. Stevenson said he will be on any committee needed.
- Mr. Stone requested standard graduation procedures for all graduations across JSEP. Sec. Shiraldi was not sure we needed to tell each principal how they needed to run their graduation. Superintendent Pogue added that JSEP could ensure standard amounts of funding for each principal for their graduations
- Ms. Munson stated that there needs to be a review and revision of the MOU between JSEP and DJS and it needs to become a working document. She would be happy to work with any members of the Board on this.
- A discussion ensued as to whether there would be a meeting next month. It was decided there would need to be a meeting in July because there were not enough members present to vote to cancel it. It was decided that the next meeting would be virtual and the decision about the next in-person meeting at a facility would depend on where there was enough space to meet.

VIII. Adjournment – Mr. Stevenson motioned, and Dr. Rai seconded - Meeting adjourned at

- 7/5/23 - <https://youtu.be/MMLDLUVKAEA>
- 8/2/23 - <https://youtu.be/D-5f9qy2G2Y>
- 9/6/23 - <https://youtu.be/D9rBBF3eQ6o>
- 10/4/23 - <https://youtu.be/eZC04MxIGFU>
- 11/1/23 - <https://youtu.be/AVFZTK-pILc>
- 12/6/23 - https://youtu.be/o_GtvD3bRQ

Staff Contact:

David Domenic