

**Clark County Strategic Plan
Education Sub-Committee Meeting
March 15, 2007**

The education sub-committee of the Clark County Strategic Plan met for a monthly meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2007, at the Arkadelphia School Administration building.

Arkadelphia School superintendent Stan Miller passed out the notes from the last meeting and he reviewed the economic development strategic goals with the committee.

Dr. Miller presented action steps for the proposed vocational/technical school goal. The committee discussed the following:

- Statewide or Residential school? The goal would be to allow Clark County students the first opportunity to attend the school before opening it up to other students statewide.
- The school would be organized like a charter school to supply a labor force for current industries.
- The state pays an additional \$3200 per student for vocational training in addition to the base allotment per student of \$6500. This would provide some funding for the proposed school.

The committee discussed the following goals:

- Counseling. Currently, students are offered the “Choices” program in the 8th grade; however, the program is not continued thru high school. The committee discussed providing opportunities for interim counselors to facilitate the lack of available counselors. It was also noted that accreditation standards are so stringent it is hard to find potential counselors. Parental involvement was discussed as a priority to insure successful career guidance. It was noted that career counseling needs to be improved and this should be a goal for the education committee.
- Early Childhood Education. Currently there are 4 head start programs in Amity and 1 ABC program. There are 2 head start programs in Gurdon. Arkansas was recently named 5th in the country for providing good pre-school education. It was noted that Arkansas rates so high because certified teachers are in pre-school classrooms. There are standardized tests for 3 and 4 year olds to test the students early to benchmark there progress early.
- Higher Education. The revitalization of the Joint Educational Consortium was discussed. The consortium provided speakers, special events, and cultural events as continuing education for the students and the community. The consortium provided a link between the community and the colleges.
- P-16 (preschool thru college). The correlation of core areas needs to be addressed. The committee discussed how to insure that all children, at all academic levels receive the best possible education.

The committee divided into sub-committees to set a meeting schedule to discuss the goals further. The following meetings were scheduled:

Early Childcare	April 11 th	9:00 a.m. at Dawson
Career Counseling	April 2 nd	6:00 p.m. at Arkadelphia High School
P-16	March 27 th	12 noon at Arkadelphia Administration Building
Technical/Vocational	March 27 th	1 p.m. at Dawson offices
Technical/Vocational	April 4 th	9 a.m.. at Dawson offices

Higher Education committee email with each other to schedule a meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.