

**Clark County Strategic Plan
Education Sub-Committee Meeting
September 9, 2009**

The Education Sub-Committee of the Clark County Strategic Plan met for a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at Arkadelphia Public Schools. The following members were present: Donnie Whitten, Judy Harrison, Dusty Schmid, Allen Blackwell, Wesley Kluck, Lewis Shepherd, Phil Hardin, Paulette Blacknall, Beth Stewart, Shelley Loe, Pat Wright, Lewis Diggs, Virginia Anderson and Carrie Roberson.

Lewis Shepherd presided over the meeting. He welcomed the committee and introduced Allen Blackwell, Gurdon Public Schools new superintendent.

Judy Harrison announced that Donnie Whitten will be inducted into the Henderson State University "Academy of Scholars" which is comprised of Henderson graduates who have gained distinction in their professional fields. Whitten will be honored during HSU's Founder's Day academic convocation.

Paulette Blacknall and Donnie Whitten presented a report on the Arkadelphia College Prep Academy. The pilot has proven to be very successful to date. The committee is preparing for the 2009-2010 class which will include students from Arkadelphia, Gurdon and Centerpoint School Districts. Blacknall announced the group has been invited to present information about the pilot program at ACT's national conference which will be held in January 2010. Blacknall presented a timeline of events for this year's program. Carrie Roberson reported several grant sources have been identified to help fund year 2 of the pilot. Grants will be submitted to the Olds Foundation, Cabe Foundation, Ross Foundation and Southern Bancorp for consideration. Lewis Diggs made a motion to pursue grant funds from the Olds Foundation, Cabe Foundation, Ross Foundation and Southern Bancorp. Donnie Whitten seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The three county school districts presented the following reports regarding the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funding:

Arkadelphia Public Schools will use ARRA funding for:

- Purchase of technology for AHS, Gifted and Talented Program, Fine Arts and Perritt Primary
- Creation of math and science lab for Peake Elementary
- Creation of Literacy Lab and Author series for Goza Middle School
- Playground renovations
- Replacement of air-handlers at AHS
- Additional financial incentives for teachers who obtain 90 hours of professional development
- Academic support of the Boys & Girls Club
- Academic support of the Arkadelphia College Prep Academy
- Renovation funds for historic Peake High School

Centerpoint Schools will use ARRA funding for:

- Re-employment of a math teacher to assist Algebra I and Geometry students get back on task
- Hired extra teacher for 3rd & 4th grade to create smaller classrooms

- Investment in the teacher salary fund
- Purchase of mobile classrooms
- Construction of a safe room that will also serve as a band hall, choir room, additional storage
- Teaching “life-skills” to special education students

Gurdon Public Schools will use ARRA funding for:

- Rehired a teacher plus additional aids to assist in the classroom
- Purchase technology and software
- Purchase of a small bus
- Installation of camera system for Cabe Middle School
- Updating agriculture and business labs for CTE programs
- Creating an EAST lab for GPS

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act is a \$1 billion dollar educational investment. This historic opportunity was created to stimulate the economy, build capacity and improve education.

The committee will meet again on November 11, 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:
Carrie Roberson