

MINUTES FROM TASK FORCE MEETING

Using the list of Education Task Force strengths and weaknesses, and potential/vision listed below, the task force then formulated a list of opportunities.

STRENGTHS

- 1) Partnerships & Opportunities to work with retired teachers
- 2) Quality & Number of Facilities
- 3) Faculty Expertise & Resources of Two Universities
- 4) Vocational, Industrial, Universities, Public Schools
- 5) Training through the Universities & Public Schools
- 6) Community Support via Tax Base for education
- 7) Quality Pre-K Programs
- 8) Geographic Location
- 9) Southwest Technology
- 10) Educational Level of Citizens
- 11) Dawson Coop/Training

WEAKNESSES

- 1) Socio-Economic Issues Affecting Secondary Level
- 2) Effect of Private & Home School
- 3) Retention of good Teachers - Recruitment
- 4) Need for expansion of Early Childhood Program
- 5) Expansion of Technical program workers & also retraining
- 6) Curriculum that includes technology
- 7) Partnerships/Collaborations between education resources & industry
- 8) Emphasize and develop local cultural opportunity programs in the colleges

POTENTIAL/VISION

- 1) To prepare all of our students to take advantage of educational opportunities
- 2) To prepare all of our students to be competitive nationally and globally

OPPORTUNITIES

- Tremendous local resources in education
 - **universities**
 - **retired teachers**
 - **current teachers**
- }GET EVERYONE TOGETHER**
- Resources to provide continuing education locally
 - Facilities & resources to train the graduates that we want that will ultimately serve the needs of the community; just need to develop more/better programs – better IT/math programs to draw in industry.
 - Set up to help college faculty learn the challenges of 9-12 teachers to see how the process goes – classroom swap
 - Take advantage of alternative certification instead of focusing on math/science ed majors
 - Universities need to find a way to make Middle School and Secondary Education in Math & science more attractive to compete for students – good students to become good teachers locally.
 - Create list of retired teachers for resources
 - Two 4-year colleges
 - Two 2-year colleges
 - Create more awareness in parents as to importance of education for their children
 - Availability of data to drive and improve instruction
 - Identify comparable counties and make comparisons on a wide variety of indicators: K-12, community, and college opportunities: determine what makes some successful.
 - Continuity with programs we start
 - Be less defensive about identified weaknesses – attack them head-on
 - Apprenticeship Program – Metalworking Connection
 - Basic Skills – Secondary: “Industry Basic Skills”
 - Focus on Non-College bound students