



**Academic Success Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2011**

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Eileen Storck and Serena Binner, Co-Chairs

Members Attending: Amanda Babcock, Serena Binner, Tara Craig, Jessica Donohue, Norm Penner, Eileen Storck, and Kim Thomas.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Eileen Storck welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

II. Old Business

A. Positive Poster Campaign

211 confirmed that they will pay for the copying costs. The Roundtable will invoice 211. They in turn will send Roundtable a check. The Roundtable will then write checks to the School Board and IRSC. The School Board is printing 1,000 11x15 at \$177.50 and IRSC 20 18x24 for \$120.

B. Parent Training

This item was tabled as neither Nancy Brown nor Mike Hitsman were in attendance.

III. Kids at Hope Updates

A. Oak Hammock

Will be doing strategic planning over the summer. Doing cap and gown pictures and will have movie nights once a month. Doing refresher training in August for all staff. Planning a carnival and parent night sometime during the summer. Reaching out to parents as they are losing their PTO. The parents currently serving are parents of 8th graders who are leaving.

B. Community

Kim Thomas noted that open community trainings are held the second Wednesday of every month at the Port St. Lucie Community Center, and the third Wednesday of every month at the Fenn Center. Participation has been great.

IV. Truancy Report

Nancy Brown submitted truancy court graphs and they were distributed. The first shows that during 2011 year-to-date there was almost a 94% reduction in unexcused absences among those that participated in Truancy Night Court. The second shows the number of active cases in May, 2011. The numbers are in single digits and members agreed that it could have been much worse without the truancy programs and Kids at Hope. It may be that resolutions are found before it gets to the Truancy Court point. Poverty, movement, homelessness and instability are all factors. Transportation is always a problem and some parents have to walk their kids down the Avenues, which is a deterrent. The question was brought up if there is a need for more truancy counselors in the schools. The records only show elementary schools but we need information on middle and high school as well. More data is needed and the Roundtable's results will be brought to the next meeting.

V. College Success Academy Pilot Project

This Program addresses students that are deficient in their junior year if they score low on their CPT. It uses the same curriculum and is a transition so that they don't have to take it again. This will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

VI. Announcements

- On May 10 there is a webinar on Solutions to the Dropout Crisis presented by Jan Bray.
- A positive article on "Homeless and Finding Sanctuary at School" was shared.
- SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco) will be hosting a free summer workshop and all middle and high school kids are invited.