



Alabama Rural Action Commission
Region 3 - Central Alabama Education Committee
Initial Planning Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2007
1:00 p.m.
Hoover Board of Education

Meeting Summary

Present: Johnna Baker (Walker Co. Schools), Charles Ball, Stoney Beavers (Blount Co. Schools), Andy Benefield, Gerald Dial, Barbara Johnson (Alabama Power Foundation), Dr. Stan Mims (Birmingham City Schools), Dr. Jodi Newton (Homewood City Schools), Kristi Wade (Oak Mountain Intermediate School), Julie Harrison (Clanton Elementary School), Mark Gray (Shelby County Schools), Tammy Dunn (Jefferson County Schools), Tony Petelos (City of Hoover), Sallye Longshore (Co-Chair, UM Inservice Center), Jack Riley (Co-Chair, University of Montevallo).

The meeting was opened by Co-Chair Jack Riley who introduced Hoover Mayor Tony Petelos. Mayor Petelos welcomed the committee to the city of Hoover. Dr. Riley also introduced Sallye Longshore, Director of the University of Montevallo Regional Inservice Center and Co-Chair of the Education Committee. Others present also introduced themselves.

Additional welcoming remarks were made by Sen. Gerald Dial, Executive Director of ARAC, Rep. Cam Ward, ARAC Region 3 Co-Chair, and Charles Ball, ARAC Region 3 Deputy Chair. Jack Riley then presented an overview of ARAC and the Education Committee.

A planning session followed, facilitated by Jack Riley and Sallye Longshore, in which the following issues and needs were discussed:

1. Arts education in rural areas
2. Finding teachers to work in remote rural areas
3. Partnering with business and industry
4. School readiness/Pre-K programs
5. Expansion of AP courses through ACCESS
6. Foreign language teaching in elementary grades
7. English Language Learners
8. Changing demographics
9. Accountability under NCLB
10. Dropout prevention
11. Possible change in mandatory school age
12. Graduation rates
13. Ninth grade academies

14. Linkages with workforce development
15. Credit recovery
16. GED credit toward HS graduation
17. Others to bring to the table – local system foundations, two-year colleges, industry partners, AMSTEC, SDE assessment experts, Leadership Birmingham, Chambers of Commerce, Congressional offices

It was agreed that the co-chairs would take the issues and needs identified and develop a proposal for a subcommittee structure. That proposal will be circulated to those at this meeting and others identified above. A second meeting to identify membership/leadership for subcommittees will be held in approximately one month, in the same location depending on availability.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.