

Magnet Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
March 17, 2016
4-6 p.m.
Vanhoose Education Center

Members Present:

✓	William Allen		Sam Cowan	✓	Zina Knight		Wendy Robertson		Trina Steiden
✓	David Baugh		Giselle Danger-Mercaderes		John Marshall	✓	Chlise Robinson		Milan Bailey
✓	Tammy Berlin	✓	Barbara Dempsey	✓	Kathy McGinnis		Mike Shelton		
✓	Enakshi Bose		Charles Dixon		Beverly Chester Burton	✓	Cassandra Shepherd		
	Karen Branham	✓	Bryce Hibbard	✓	Michelle Pennix		Shantai Tudor		
✓	Chris Burba		Michael Hirn	✓	Shantel Reed	✓	Felicia Young		

The meeting began approximately at 4:10 p.m.

Dr. Eli Beardsley (Director of ESL Programs) presented to the committee on the ESL program and ESL/LEP students in Jefferson County. A rich discussion ensued that raised many points about ESL student participation in magnet schools. For instance, it was noted by Dr. Beardsley and several other JCPS staff that some ESL families intentionally do not pursue magnet school options for cultural reasons or due to individual family needs. Dr. Beardsley was asked by the committee to offer suggestions for ways they can best focus efforts relative to the MSA recommendations on ESL students and magnet schools. He recommended the following:

1. Because so few applications from ESL students are submitted each year, work on ways in which students and families would be encouraged to apply to increase the applicant pool.
2. The district should re-examine where ESL services can be delivered and ESL students can be supported as well as looking at how those services can be delivered in different ways.
3. Work to share information in different ways (e.g., videos, community centers) to parents of ESL students so that they understand school choices for their children because this concept is unique to American education.

As part of the ESL conversation, committee members also posed some of the following questions:

1. ILPs (Individual Learning Plan, begins in 6th grade statewide) – How can the district more effectively utilize the ILP to guide student and family choice in schools?
2. How do schools better involve students directly in making and guiding school choices?
3. Is it possible to hold seats in magnet programs for ESL students?
4. How do we better communicate to ESL families that there are additional choices for their children to attend magnet schools?
5. Is it possible to push the application period back (ex. February instead of January)? This would be helpful for ESL, Kindergarten, and new-to-JCPS families.
6. Is it possible to have a rolling deadline for applications? For example, rounds of when applications can be submitted for magnets (similar to postsecondary applications process). Is it possible to have a blended approach to the application window and applications?
7. Which magnet programs are *community members* most interested in? Which programs should district most support from a community perspective? Are there magnet programs the community would support that do not currently exist?
8. Which magnets should we replicate? What criteria should be established for replicating magnet schools or programs?

Committee members received an update about the outcome of the March 8th JCS Board Work Session. The Board of Education was generally pleased with the progress and direction of the steering committee, and they offered specific questions for the committee to consider (see attachment Board Questions/Comments).

Committee members received information about an upcoming federal grant announcement (estimated April 1) on the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP). The grant must be submitted by districts (not individual schools), and it is restricted to new magnets or significantly restructured existing magnets. In addition, schools must utilize lottery-based admissions to be eligible for this grant. School principals have been notified about the grant opportunity to consider whether they want to make an application.

Committee members briefly discussed a process for identifying and discussing district success criteria for magnet schools (which the committee previously agreed is a priority). The Core Team of the magnet steering committee began this conversation in their most recent meeting, which led to questions and suggestions for consideration by the full steering committee. Committee members will provide input on suggestions for success criteria via email to facilitators in preparation for the next meeting on April 21st.

At the end of the session, committee members agreed to complete “homework” from the facilitators as the meeting time was at a close.

1. Provide plus/deltas to facilitators as feedback on the meeting.
2. Provide feedback on using MSA’s Five Pillars as a starting point for discussion on common criteria that can be used to evaluate the success of all magnet schools.

The meeting ended at approximately 6:08 p.m.