



Envision Alachua Phase III East County Educators Committee

Summary of Meeting #3 February 27, 2014

prepared by
Rose Fagler, Plum Creek
August 2014

in support of the Envision Alachua
process convened by Plum Creek



Background

The East County Educators Committee comprised of current and retired education professionals who have a focus on quality education from kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12), as well as minority students. The Educators Committee is in direct response to the regular and consistent comments provided through the Envision Alachua process regarding education as it relates to quality of life and job readiness.

Envision Alachua is a community planning process to discuss future economic, environmental and community opportunities in Alachua County on lands owned by Plum Creek who is the largest private landowner in Alachua County with 65,000 acres. Nearly 24,000 of these acres are permanently conserved. The company's holdings are located throughout northern and eastern Alachua County. Plum Creek is considering future uses for its lands that could be aligned with community needs. Phase I of the process yielded a community vision, goals and guiding principles to guide Plum Creek's decision making as it explores potential opportunities for lands in East County that are suitable for uses other than timber. Phase II of the process yielded a community-shaped, long-term master plan that incorporated the community's vision onto Plum Creek's land. That plan is currently being reviewed by Alachua County. Phase III begins on April 17th with the focus of keeping the community updated on the plan review process as well as helping to shape the zoning application. The Educators Committee meeting is part of the effort to transition the Task Force vision from the Envision Alachua process into community preparation to act upon the economic opportunities that could be associated with an approved 50-year, long term master plan for Plum Creek's holdings within Alachua County.

The overall objectives for the Educators Committee is to discuss the situation of K-12 education within Alachua County, how does the education experience relate to job readiness, and what steps can be taken including partnership with other organizations in order to have students ready for job opportunities upon graduation from high school.

On February 27 2014, the third meeting of the East County Educators Committee was held. The objectives of the third meeting were:

- Awareness of local strategic planning efforts addressing the Committee's concerns and goals
- Bring Committee's input to the attention of the local strategic planning efforts
- Determine what additional input the committee can provide
- Determine additional involvement in the local efforts

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Strategic Plan for Alachua County Public Schools
- III. iG Strategies addressing Talent for local employees
- IV. CareerSource North Central Florida & Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce joint effort addressing education-to-employment
- V. Discussion on supporting and participating in all of these efforts
- VI. Closing Remarks and Action Steps

This document summarizes the general discussion comments made by the facilitators (Mr. Albert White and Mrs. Rose Fagler) and the Committee members during the February 27th, 2014 meeting. It is intended only as a summary and should not be considered a transcription of the meeting. Meeting materials, information about the meeting will be posted at www.envisionalachua.com.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Albert White, consultant to Plum Creek, opened the meeting welcoming the participants who each introduced themselves. Albert reviewed the meeting agenda sharing the desire to move from discussion to actionable results. He then introduced Rose Fagler, Manager of Community Relations Florida, Plum Creek, who provided a brief update on the Envision Alachua process and reviewed the meeting materials from meeting #2.

II. Strategic Plan for Alachua County Public Schools

Everett Caudle with the Alachua County Public School District presented the Strategic Plan for the district.

The strategic plan can be viewed [here](#) on the Alachua County School Board Website.

http://www.sbac.edu/pages/ACPS/Departments_Programs/Departments_M-R_Public_Information_Office/Community_Bulletin_Board/Strategic_Planning/Strategic_Planning_Process

A copy of the strategic plan can also be found attached to these summary notes as Attachment B.

The committee wanted collaboration between ACPS and the business community to occur on a regular and frequent basis to ensure that the school district was aware of the job opportunities and the skill sets needed. The committee also wanted the business community engaged with ACPS to help support the education process to ensure students are prepared for employment opportunities upon graduation. Overall the committee wanted alignment between the K-12 education and the business community for employment opportunities.

III. iG Strategies addressing talent for local employees

Due to a family illness a representative from iG was unable to attend the meeting. However, Rose Fagler, current co-chair of iG, informed the committee of the current Innovation Gainesville strategies addressing talent and local employees.

IV. CareerSource North Central Florida & Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce joint effort addressing education-to-employment

Jacob Wychulis informed the committee and the school board of the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce's talent and job preparedness initiative. This initiative is to directly address the critical issue of job preparedness in our community and a key component of that is the K-12 School System. Jacob gathered feedback from the committee members and school board representatives and extended the invitation for the East County Education Committee members in this effort.

Jacob Wychulis represented Rick Staab, Chamber Board Member and Chair of the talent to job preparedness initiative.

One of the goals of this effort is to increase the graduation rate in our K-12 ACPS which is also a goal in the ACPS Strategy [Please see strategy included at as attachment B and Article entitled "End US Drop Out Rates..." included as attachment D]

V. Discussion on Supporting and Participating in all of these efforts

The group discussed how they could best support these efforts. The committee was interested in case studies of districts and programs around the United States that have successfully addressed this topic. Long Beach Unified School District was an example the committee reviewed. [Please see attachment E, which contains the Academic and Career Success Initiative from Long Beach]

VI. Closing Remarks and Action Steps

Rose Fagler distributed two fact sheets associated with Envision Alachua planning process reflecting the commitment to education to show effort of the East County Educators Committee is impacting the planning process.

Rose Fagler shared the efforts of Envision Alachua to continue this important discussion with the community. She advised that there would be an Education Forum specifically on this topic in order to develop a community action plan.

NOTE: The Education Forum has been rescheduled for October 1st, 2014.

East County Educators Committee Members

Nykki Barnes

Immediate Past President
Alachua County PTA

Lawson Brown – Principal*

Duval Elementary School

Linda Butler*

Rawlings Elementary School (retired)

Betty Calhoun*

Buchholz High School Teacher

Aaron Carter

Kanapaha Middle School

Veita Jackson-Carter – Principal*

Hawthorne Middle and High Schools

Everett Caudle*

Alachua County Public Schools

Dr. Karen Cole-Smith*

Santa Fe College, Envision Alachua Task Force Member

Carrie Davis

Eastside High School

Debra Fields

FW Buchholz High School

Dr. Bessie Jackson

Gainesville High School (retired)

Dr. Simon Johnson

Caring & Sharing Learning Schools, Inc.

Verna Johnson

Caring & Sharing Learning Schools, Inc.

Jean Kiner

Caring & Sharing Learning Schools, Inc.

Hershel Lyons*

Alachua County Public Schools

Leonard Marshall

Rawlings Elementary School

**Denotes attended meeting*

Gunnar Paulson*

Alachua County Public Schools

Clarence Polke

Gainesville Job Corps/LMS

Jacqueline Polke

Eastside High School

Ellen Rush

Retired Teacher

James Speer

Horizon Center

Angela Terrell

Alachua County Elementary Schools
(retired)

Gainesville Association for the Creative Arts

Janie Williams*

Retired Teacher

Past Member of School Board of Alachua County

Rhonda Wilson

Duval Elementary

Dr. Gladys Wright

Chester Shell Elementary School (retired principal), Envision Alachua Task Force Member

Jacob Wychulis

On Behalf of Rick Staab – Tyler's Hope

Educators Committee Member Representing Plum Creek

Rose Fagler*

Manager Community Relations
Plum Creek, Envision Alachua Task Force Member

Consultant

Albert White*

Community Relations Consultant