

Education Focus Group



Below is the meeting summary for the second Education Focus Group meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to select approximately three goals per topic for further study. In the following three meetings, groups will determine more specific objectives for each goal. All of the Focus Group information will be incorporated into the Community Strategic Plan document which will be considered by the Board of Supervisors later this year.

Meeting Date: 3/14/16

Recorder: Karen Thomas

Meeting Location: Northside High School

Number of Participants: 24

Number of Small Groups: 4

Host: Dr. Killough, Roanoke County Public Schools Superintendent

Lead Staff: Ken Nicely, Rebecca Owens

Staff Facilitators: Laurie Gearheart, Audrey Palmer, Ashley King, Karen Thomas

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Most Popular Topics by Group Consensus for Meeting 1

Top 3 most popular Topics selected by group consensus at the end of Meeting 1.

1. Promote different paths to success
2. Establishing a sense of community through involvement and partnerships
3. Enhance support and increase investment in Roanoke County Schools

Meeting 1 Topics Confirmed at the Beginning of Meeting 2

1. Paths to Success
2. Community Involvement and Partnerships
3. Continuum of High Quality Education

Meeting 2: GOALS DEVELOPMENT

GOALS are defined as “What you want to do.”

Topic 1: Paths to Success

1. Educate public, schools, students and parents on skills gaps and job information (i.e. needs, salaries, etc.) in Roanoke
2. Re-branding image of community colleges, technical education
3. Create and promote diverse methods of technical / career / art training and academics
4. Customize educational needs to each individual
5. Prepare individuals for life's challenges
6. Align education and training with job opportunities

Topic 2: Community Involvement and Partnerships

1. Promote / introduce students of challenges to community activities and service learning opportunities
2. Create public / private / education partnerships
3. Adequate funding
4. Build relationships and mentoring programs
5. Enhance / develop partnerships to create ease of accessibility

Topic 3: Continuum of High Quality Education

1. Promote education opportunities in the Roanoke Valley
2. Attract and retain high quality teachers
3. Emphasize career counseling (K-Adult)
4. Promote success of achievements
5. Increase the investment
6. Increase support for re-training

End of Meeting 2: Group Consensus on Top Three Goals by Topic

Topic 1: Paths to Success

Goal 1. Educate public, schools, parents and students on skill gaps and job information (i.e. job needs, salaries, etc.) in Roanoke Valley

Goal 2. Rebranding image of community colleges and technical education

Goal 3. Create and promote diverse methods of technical / career / art training and academics

Topic 2: Community Involvement and Partnerships

Goal 1. Promote / introduce students of challenges to community activities and service learning opportunities

Goal 2. Create public / private / education partnerships

Goal 3. Adequate funding

Topic 3: Continuum of High Quality Education

Goal 1. . Promote education opportunities in the Roanoke Valley

Goal 2. Attract and retain high quality teachers

Goal 3. Emphasize career counseling (K-Adult)

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A preliminary discussion was held on specific objectives to be discussed at the next meeting. The results are as follows:

Community Involvement and Partnerships

- Increase enrichment opportunities outside of school for all levels of students (camp, job readiness, etc.)
- Internships, job shadowing opportunities
- Collaborate with local businesses and industries for opportunities for citizens and students (i.e. internship & OJT programs)

Continuum of High Quality Education

- Enhance adult education opportunities
- Increase participation of dual enrollment (college credits for high school courses / AP courses)
- Evaluate opportunities for I.B.
- Competitive pay for teachers, aids, bus staff, café, etc.
- Smaller class sizes

Paths to Success

- Create Governor School for CTE / Art (K-12)
- Enhance STEAM-H programming in K-12