

**City of Alexandria**  
Council Strategic Planning Meeting  
Goal #4 Meeting 3, December 9, 2009  
Meeting Recap

Goal 4: *“Alexandria is a Community with Public Schools Amongst Northern Virginia’s Best and Where Our Recreational Programs Provide Youth the Opportunity to Succeed.”*

**Meeting Purpose:** To bring a broad thinking group of community members together for discussion and generation of ideas regarding the desired outcomes for City Council Goal #4.

**Meeting Owners:** Councilwoman Alicia R. Hughes and Councilman Rob Krupicka

**Facilitator:** Jim Spengler, RPCA Director

**Attendees:** Tom Gates, Cathy David, Richard Fowler, James Henson, J. Glen Hopkins, Karen Hughes, Ida Eblinger Kelley, Jeanette Lightfoot, John Porter, Sean McEneaney, Lori Morris, John Timmons, Jackie-Ward Richardson, Sheryl Gorsuch, Giselle Pelaez, Nina Randolph, Sallie Craft, Michael Gilmore, Sharon Annear, Allen Lomax, Helenmarie Corcoran, Bill Campbell, Jack Browand, Robin DeShields.

**Meeting Format:** This meeting will use a structured public input process to gain meaningful information on objectives, initiatives, and performance measures regarding Goal #4. Structured public input is a method to generate ideas in a limited time frame from a large group of participants. All ideas are valued and accepted without criticism or comment from other participants. The group tries to build off earlier ideas presented to generate additional thoughts. The exercise needs to move quickly without interruption to maximize the value of time allotted to planning. There will be two rounds of idea generation followed by a round of voting. Participants will be divided into groups for the purpose of generating objectives, major initiatives, and performance measures related to Goal #4. Groups will have different members for each round. People and groups can present multiple ideas during the evening. The thoughts will be captured on cards that will be posted in the front of the room. One card will show the objective, another initiative, and the last card the performance measure. At the end of each idea generation round each participant will be asked to vote for his or her top three groupings of objectives, initiatives, and measures. Each person will get three votes.

**The actual process on December 9, 2009 consisted of one round of work followed by a group discussion. Councilman Rob Krupicka led the group in organizing the ideas into three thematic areas.**

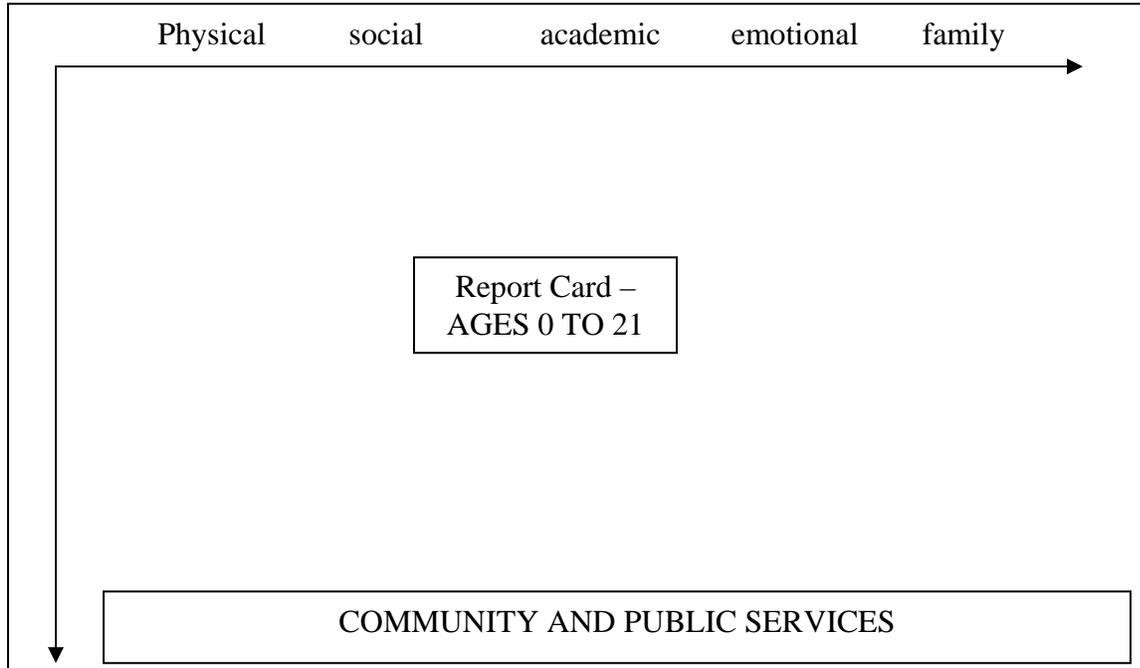
**Ideas Generated:**

New Goal #4 Statements

- Alexandria is a city where youth succeed, in which all youth related city entities work together with a focus on the well being of youth and their families.
- Alexandria is a community that provides the environment, resources and commitment to ensure that each and every child succeeds.
- Alexandria is a community committed to the holistic success of all youth.

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- Alexandria is a community that puts kids first.
- Alexandria is a city where families, government and community are committed to support the well being and success of children from early school to graduation and in life.



**Objective #1:**

The well being of children, youth and families is supported and enhanced in Alexandria.

**Initiatives:**

- Increase participation in play group programs.
- Embed strengthening families model throughout programs.
- Provide the environment, resources and commitment to ensure that each and every child succeeds socially.
- Provide evidence based programs in and out of school to reduce risky behaviors (e.g. pregnancy, substance abuse, dropping out, and gangs).
- Develop and implement city-wide family literacy program.
- Provide the environment, resources and commitment to ensure that each and every child succeeds emotionally.
- Implement community school model.
- Provide the environment, resources and commitment to ensure that each and every child succeeds physically.
- Align and expand existing mentoring programs.

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**Measures:**

- Drop in teen pregnancy rate.
- Decrease in population at NVJDH.
- Increase in % of youth graduating on time.
- Decrease in school fights.
- Decrease in gang activity.
- Decrease in suicide rate.
- Decrease in drug and alcohol abuse.
- Reduce juvenile crime rates.
- Participation rate in programs in schools for art, dance, music and visual arts.
- Participation rate in recreation centers for programs in arts, dance, music and visual arts.
- Participation in recreation center programs.
- Participation in sports teams.
- Increase in volunteerism among children and youth.
- Reduction in incidence of child abuse and neglect.
- Low obesity rates.
- Lower cases of asthma and diabetes.
- School attendance rate.
- Medical home.
- Inoculation.

**Objective #2:**

City and community services are aligned to support the success of children, youth and families.

**Initiatives:**

- Coordination of quality early childhood experiences for all children including social, emotional, physical and educational needs.
- Create a seat for at least one youth representative on each city board or commission.
- Coordination of quality out of school time experiences for children.
- Every child is connected with an out of school program.
- The city, schools and families establish a system for sharing information for the betterment of children.
- Integrate child welfare and child and family mental health programs through a coordinated system.
- Realign boards and commissions that relate to preschool programs.
- Adopt a single point of entry for youth and family services.
- Realign boards and commissions that relate to children and families.
- Partner with communities (business, non-profit, faith based organizations) to meet needs and solicit ideas without additional public funds.
- Adopt a comprehensive youth master plan that integrates services of schools, city agencies, and community organizations (non-profit).

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- Develop a kid's first core master plan.
- Adopt a single point of entry for preschool programs.

**Measures:**

- % of youth enrolled in after school activities.
- New child, youth and families centered organizational design for the city.

**Objective #3:**

All children enter kindergarten ready to learn and graduate high school prepared for success in life.

**Initiatives:**

- Support ACPS in the implementation of the strategic plan.
- Provide the environment, resources and commitment to ensure that each and every child succeeds academically.
- Adopt and implement the Virginia definition of school readiness.
- Increase participation in pre-school programs.

**Measures:**

- Every child graduates from high school on time with the knowledge and skills necessary for success.
- Increase in school attendance rates.
- Decrease in school disciplinary action.
- Decrease in grade level retention.
- Increase in post-secondary education.
- Children graduating.
- Increase graduation rates.
- Decrease days out rate.
- Increase # of children entering kindergarten with a quality preschool experience.
- Decrease in teen pregnancy.
- # of children reading on grade level or above.
- Reduce drop out rates.
- Percentage of students entering kindergarten ready to learn.
- Meeting or exceeding standard reading levels.
- Reduce drop out rates.
- Enter kindergarten ready.
- Prepare kids for work or college.