

Portal Partnership  
February 11, 2008  
Notes

Attending: Sharon Williams; Linda Harrington; Larry Motes; Paul Hudson; Emory Hagins; Abraham Williams; Randy Hagins (new); Dianne Bath

Updates

**City of Portal –**

- Larry updated us on the sewer system. EPA has been and he has to respond to about 20 questions. Once questions are answered then project can be put out for bid – estimated time is 3-4 months. Money for the project is now in the bank. Must get the sewer system in before applying for additional grants.
- GSU School of Nursing is interested in opening the nurse station again in Portal. Larry asked everyone to get the survey out to their community members. They could return to the City Hall office. Everyone was pleased to hear there may be interest in re-opening the health center.
- Larry met with Charles Wilson, facility contact for BOE, to discuss the 19 acres across from the elementary school and what the BOE was planning to do with it. Larry shared the interest of the city/community in having a community center and a recreational complex as an intergovernmental agreement.
- High school plans are underway. Charles Wilson had said that the additional land had been purchased to make way for the site of the new school. Buckley and Associates had made contact to see what the sewer plans were and how they might connect to them. Glen Rogers, BOE maintenance, stated that the air conditioning units from Nevils would be installed in the Portal gym in the next few months. Money from SPLOST has been set aside for the new school – 11.5 million.
- Ogeechee Technical College would be offering an adult literacy and GED class at the City Hall building beginning in the next few weeks. Everyone was asked to spread the word.
- Bank building is available for sale at \$145,000 dollars – not sure what it will be used for, but everyone thought that was a little too expensive for the community to be able to use.

**School Level**

- Paul Hudson reported about the use of new technology called MAP, Measures of Academic Progress, being used to assess, diagnose, and prescribe curriculum in the academic areas. All teachers would soon have lap tops for their use and interactive whiteboards for their classrooms. He also had added a computer lab for instruction.
- Paul also reported about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant coming to an end at the end of this year and how much the academic tutoring services would be missed. Mr. Hagins suggested a need to begin to find ways to support the tutoring for next year. Ms. Bath said she would look and see what might be available to support

such an initiative and bring to the next meeting. Larry suggested talking with Jamie Stucky, who might have some resource information.

- A meeting with Mike Jones from the Boys and Girls Club and Catherine Hendrix from 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant would help everyone see how they might fill the gap if the grant ends and is not renewed.
- Paul reported that he had around 422 students a continued steady growth and would get additional teachers for his school. May want to use them for targeted instructional support.

### **Community Level**

- Emory Hagins reported that he now had 100 computers to assist students in academic tutoring. He gets the CRCT data from the elementary school to determine how to best serve the students. He is serving students who are not being served by the elementary program. Mr. Hudson stressed how valuable this was to his students.
- Mr. Hagins stressed the importance of the GED/Adult Literacy program to the community and encouraged everyone to get the work out about it.
- Mr. Hagins was concerned about the number of young girls having babies who are children themselves. His church is looking into providing a Halfway House for them. There are about 17 girls who if they are left in the same situation they are in would not be able to provide for themselves and their children.
- Discussed Flying-J Truck stop coming to 301 and I16 as additional resources to the county in sales tax.

### **GSU**

- Bath reported that everyone was excited that the group was meeting again and sends their greetings.
- Ms. Bath asked everyone to come to the March meeting thinking about the future stories they wrote about the Portal Community. The group would then begin to look at the next 5 years.

Next meeting would be on Monday March 17 or 24. Ms. Bath would send the dates for everyone to check their calendars and see which best suited them.