



Board of Directors Meeting

January 14, 2010

Childs Park Computer Literacy

Item III.A.1

Recommended Action:

1. Reestablish the computer literacy program within the Childs Park neighborhood as part of a consolidated literacy program for midtown St. Petersburg.
2. Transfer \$140,000 from the PCMS literacy program to Sanderlin NFC and allocate \$93,000 to Sanderlin NFC from the Community Priorities Fund. Total annualized amount is \$265,000.

Issue:

The computer literacy program located within seven faith-based providers was halted in September due to the loss of funding from the Eckerd Family Foundation. Consolidating funding and oversight within Sanderlin NFC provides an opportunity to provide a more comprehensive and coordinated after school and summer program.

Program:

Childs Park Computer Literacy

Budget Impact:

Same

Strategic Plan Goal:

School Success

Background: In FY 08-09, PCMS provided two separate but related programs in the Childs Park neighborhood through faith-based organizations: child and family literacy programming and computer literacy. The child and family literacy program funded by JWB continues in FY 09-10. Seven faith-based organizations were allocated \$20,000 each, with a total allocation of \$140,000 from the FY 09-10 budget to address literacy in the Childs Park neighborhood. The faith-based organizations include: Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church, Dominion Worship Center, Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Prayer Tower Church of God, Rock of Jesus Missionary Baptist Church and the St. Petersburg Islamic Center. The program provides literacy-building services and activities after school and during the summer for youth in Childs Park and the surrounding areas.

The Eckerd Family Foundation funded computer literacy labs in the same seven faith-based organizations in the Childs Park neighborhood. The funding was used to purchase the computer equipment and pay stipends for 8 peer mentors and 2 senior peer mentors to teach computer skills to children in afterschool and summer programs. The Eckerd funding was terminated in July 2009 and the Juvenile Welfare Board stepped in to provide funding for the summer for over 200 enrolled students. The funding ran out in September 2009 and the computers are not currently being used. The equipment is still in place and the trained peer mentors who have the experience to teach computer literacy can be added to the faith-based reading literacy program under the existing structure. The reading literacy site coordinators can oversee the peer mentors and provide reading and computer literacy in a cost efficient program that doubles the benefit to the children enrolled in the faith-based organizations.

Staff is recommending that Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center administer and manage the contract which aligns community and faith-based programs with nearby Neighborhood Family Centers. The program is requesting to add two additional faith-based organizations, St Marks Church and Mount Zion, to implement the technology literacy component of the program. In order to provide the oversight necessary, Sanderlin NFC has requested funding for one full-time Program Coordinator. It is anticipated that this transfer, along with the proposed staffing pattern, will increase the capacity of the initiative to meet the programmatic goals of substantial academic gains for the target population. Adding the technology component will also enhance the youth's academic skills. Parental and family involvement is also a component of the program. The contracted service levels for this FY is 140 youth.