

**SUN PRAIRIE BUSINESS AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**  
**September 21, 2017 – Minutes (taken by B. Butler)**

**Present:** Chad Wojtysiak, Christi Winchel, Sharlot Bogart, James Ackley, Chris Swenson, Nancy Everson, John Sheehan, Marv Hupp, David Thwing, Yvonne Lovicott, Andrea Daniels, Patrick Malinowski, Krista Kaltenberg, Taran Katta, Jenny Stebnitz, Karen Bailey, Kayla Wilke, and Betsy Butler.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m. by James Ackley at Royal Oaks Elementary School. (Thank you to Royal Oaks for hosting the meeting today.)

**Welcome & Introductions:** Watched video made for the Opening Day Convocation at the school district. New rep from Frontier, Yvonne Lovicott, was introduced as well as Kayla Wilke, the new board rep from Prairie View Middle School.

**Approval of August 17 BEP Minutes:** Motion by Christi Winchel, second by Sharlot Bogart, to approve the August 17th minutes. Motion carried.

**Student Feature:** Taran Katta shared that DECA and other business clubs would like to get more involved with BEP. DECA is the marketing club at school where students work on various projects to get a sense of what the business world is like. We (BEP Board and members) need to think of connections where we could use these students. The Community Schools Fun Night is now staffed by DECA students. Ackley asked how we can connect with them.

**Treasurer's Report:** Everson shared the current status of our financial reports. Bills came in this month for Reading Buddies. Six companies have already paid \$100 for the program. There are 31 classes this year. We also had expenses from last year that came in, such as printing charges for Prairie Voices. No other expenditures at this time. Everson is figuring out the budgets for this year. She added funds to the Adopt a Class column, added to GRIT monies (T-shirts costs are an unknown). She would love to see kids get out into the businesses like they used to do.

**Membership Report:** Chris Swenson stated we are about \$1000 short of last year's goal. Chris will get list of members to Betsy Butler by the end of next week. Our membership drive will be during the first week of November. How can we help Deb Schenck at district office be more efficient? She is very busy and Swenson cannot be a one-man show to get out to our members. We need to regroup on how we do this. Swenson feels that he needs more support and help in contacting renewal members, and then contacting the stragglers who have not renewed yet. Ackley suggested the committee meet at the end of the meeting today. Someone suggested that the Rotary is always looking for speakers - we should go to one of their Tuesday morning

meetings. The Chamber is another resource. Chris is going to the Chamber luncheon today. Ackley will send Sheehan the link to the video.

**Calendar of Events:** Everson is compiling all the dates for the year. By October she will have everything and put the calendar together for at least first semester. The October board meeting host is Northside, and November will be UW Health. Nancy will check on the possibility of the Statz family hosting for December? Nancy reached out to Wisconsin Distributors for a January meeting; she suggested that this would be a good time to invite the business park businesses. Discussion about creating a business focused video - we need to pull at the heart strings; possibly use the video in context as it was presented to the teachers?

### **Unfinished Business/Old Business:**

- Webpage Update: What is happening with the updating of the website? We need multiple people to access the webpage to keep it updated. We need pictures and video when you go to events. Marv will do this and update things for us.
- Adopt-A-School: Ackley shared that a banner is being made designating Frontier as Royal Oaks's partner. The Kick-off will be Tuesday, October 24 (tentative times 9:30-12:20). A 2nd grade classroom (paired with HR) and 3rd grade classroom (paired with operations) are set up. Three people in each department will bond with the classroom, taking students over to Frontier in the spring. Kids will get to see what those departments do. Frontier will be their GRIT partner, and the Reading Buddies have all four partners from Frontier. The STAR is coming for the event on Oct. 24. This will give PR for all the programs involved. The minimum contact will be twice a year between the business and the school (kick-off and field trip). Progress with Northside Elementary Adopt a School is shared - Northside is paired with McFarland State Bank. We need a banner for Northside as well. Pairing there is not quite as elaborate. Banner will be inside the building. Post the banner right up front in the main entry. The banner will be completed through Dan McIlroy. Ackley proposed a \$300 motion to fund the purchase of banners for Northside and Royal Oaks for the Adopt a School program. Everson seconded. Discussion concluded that the vision should go on the banner. We also discussed adding the vision to our logo. We will ask Dan to work on the logo as well. Everson asked if BEP board members should attend the kick-off. This will be discussed. Motion carried.
- Vision and Mission—BEP's 29<sup>th</sup> Year: Ackley shared the brainstorming from last time. Asked members to meet for a few minutes to look at the results. Everson made suggested "Uniting schools and businesses to help students prepare for their futures" for a brighter future. Mission will be brought forth in October. The vision statement was put forth - *Preparing/supporting today's*

*students for the workforce of tomorrow.* Board agrees to move forward with that and will have a proposed mission for next month.

- Question regarding maybe a flyer for BEP being handed out during homecoming parade. Our current membership booklet needs the vision in it. The booklet shares the how. It needs a call to action - what can you do?

#### **New Business:**

- Ackley asked people to bring their new ideas. Keep bringing those.

#### **Committee Reports**

- Volunteers: Nothing at this time
- Reality Rocks: Nothing at this time
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Nothing new at this time.
- Reading Buddies: Everson discussed earlier.
- GRIT: First student award will take place at Colony Brands. Nancy will send out the date for the surprise; student starts working at 4:30 p.m. Feedback on GRIT. Nominee placement is an issue - how can we get the word out better? Would a new letter be helpful? Discussion - Should we do a personal letter to businesses? Certificate backs - blank right now. Should we place member names on the back of the certificate. We want to thank these members and ask for their continued involvement.
- Adopt a School: Discussed earlier
- Reading Buddies: Discussed previously
- Adopt a Future: Discussed previously
- Prairie Voices: Nothing at this time

#### **Activities:**

- Working Wednesdays: First one - Colony Brands - 30 kids came to
- Teach-In/Career Day: Nothing at this time
- Career Night: Nothing at this time
- Mock Interviews: Nothing at this time

**Adjournment:** Motion by Hupp, second by Malinowski to adjourn at 9:03 a.m. Motion carried.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, October 19th at Northside Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.