

Vision: *Preparing and supporting today's students for tomorrow's workforce.*  
Mission: *Uniting schools and businesses to help students prepare for their futures.*

**SUN PRAIRIE BUSINESS AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**  
**January 18, 2018 – Minutes (taken by B. Butler)**

**Present:** James Ackley, Karen Bailey, Seth Degnan, Chris Swenson, Nancy Everson, Marv Hupp, Patrick Malinowski, Shirley Statz, Krista Kaltenberg, Jill Conaway, Chad Wojtysiak, Yvonne Lovicott, Jim Ertel, and Betsy Butler. **Guests:** Deidre Jarecki.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 a.m. by James Ackley at Frontier Communications. Thank you to Yvonne Lovicott and Frontier for hosting.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Our guest today is Deidre Jarecki, English teacher at the high school. She is here to share information about the SPHS All-School Read. She shared: "We need a talking point to have a great conversation about diversity and race. The book is a way to open the conversation and provide a format for a discussion, providing a conversation plus literacy focus. We have speakers coming; police department will also be there and discuss community issues. There will be a panel discussion, so we can model what a civil discourse looks like. Students leaders will be involved as well. Our week for the event is April 16-20, 2018." They have a website - There are posters around the school; their goal is to have businesses/students reading the book, making literacy a community thing, and making the discussion a community thing. They are accepting in-kind donations. The big assembly is in the morning of April 20 with the authors attending. The whole calendar of events is on the website and will be filled in during February. Total amount for the project is \$17,000-\$20,000. Everson stated that this is a great initiative. The timing of their planning missed the Foundation grant. They will be applying in the spring. Could the BEP email our members about the event and ways to get involved? The group is collaborating with the public library. This event is phase 1 of this type of event; hoping it will build in future years to be district-wide and community-wide. They will donate books back to the community for them to read. Jarecki shared a "teaser" about the book. Jarecki will keep us posted about efforts.

**Approval of December 21 BEP Minutes:** Motion made by Everson; seconded by Statz to approve the 12-21-17 minutes. Motion carried.

**Student Feature:** Taran Katta was unable to attend today. Students are taking final exams this week.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Everson shared the financial report. Chris Swenson has some dues for the account. No expenses this month; balances doing well. About \$1625

in dues have come in per Swenson. Final invoices will be going out for Reading Buddies. Ackley asked about the Adopt a Future selection timing. Everson said that process is beginning shortly. We had talked about raising that amount; where are we on that conversation? Are we adding another scholarship or raising the amount? We need to know how many kids are in the system, how many scholarships are reserved. No need to recruit new business sponsors at this point. We will discuss this at the next meeting after we get information from Chandu Vemuri.

**Membership Report:** Chris Swenson reported that dues are starting to come in. New member back is the Bank of Sun Prairie. Two new reps will be beginning to join us at meetings. Clings have been ordered (green color this year). We need to do a better job distributing them this year.

**Calendar of Events:** Everson shared that nothing has changed since last month. QBE, technically not a member, is going to host our May meeting. They will give us a tour at that time. They have sent a ton of volunteers to Reality Rocks this year. Next week Friday BEP will start GRIT recognitions. Take photos at the events please! If someone wants to volunteer at a specific school, connect them with Nancy or to the building principal. Malinowski - question - do we have a BEP rep at schools to make sure it is presented as a BEP event? Ackley said it is the principal's job to clarify that. We need a February location. Seth Degnan stated Kicks Unlimited could host in February.

**Unfinished Business/Old Business:**

- Recruiting Breakfast: Ackley read through the minutes. Officers met, set the date, set the agenda. Invite was shared. WPPI is hosting the breakfast. Nancy has asked to check out the room set up. We will want a focal point. Invite - will this invite draw your attention? Add - please feel free to invite a guest; please RSVP for you and up to two guests. Let's focus on the business park for this event. Conaway discussed changing the focus on the invite to recruiting employees; all agreed. Butler has the changes to give to Paige. Also discussed the number of guests. February 5 - invites go out; follow-up by BEP board member will happen between Feb 5-20. RSVPs due by Feb. 21. Vyonne Lovicott will speak at the breakfast. The personal connection will make it happen. We will create a Google doc with the company names and who is contacting, etc. We will also need RSVP from board members. Agenda looks good.

**New Business:**

- All-School Read: Bailey made a motion to donate a \$1000 to fund this project.

Seconded by Conaway. Discussion followed. Final reasoning: We value students working well with one another, creating an ability to communicate, and promoting literacy. Students need to know how to speak with one another. Our community is divided, and we need to work on this. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

- Volunteers: We need volunteers to Prairie View and Patrick Marsh for GRIT recognitions. Contact Nancy. We have some new volunteers that are coming. Just had a lot of interviews recently at the high school for Acadec. Thank you.
- Reality Rocks: Nothing new.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Discussed earlier
- Reading Buddies: Discussed earlier. Nothing new.
- GRIT: Discussed earlier
- Adopt a School: Nothing new at this time.
- Adopt a Future: Discussed earlier. Will be discussed next month.
- Prairie Voices: Information is going out next week to teachers in the district.

### **Activities:**

- Working Wednesdays: Handled by the high school admin. Been busy with many businesses coming in.
- Teach-In/Career Day: Everson has heard nothing from the middle schools yet. Malinowski heard something - he will check on this.
- Career Night: Nothing at this time.
- Mock Interviews: Nothing yet. Some schools are having extra interviews with the seniors. Is this something admin at the high school would be interested in?
- New business for next month - Young professionals group in Sun Prairie - possible tie with new teachers in SP? This is something to explore.
- Speakers from BEP at the Rotary? This might be helpful.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Mailnowski, seconded by Everson to adjourn at 8:59 a.m. Motion carried.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, February 15 at Kicks Unlimited at 7:30 a.m.

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