

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
February 15, 2018 – Minutes (taken by B. Butler)

Present: Carol Smithson, Karen Bailey, Seth Degnan, Chris Swenson, Nancy Everson, Marv Hupp, Patrick Malinowski, Krista Kaltenberg, Jill Conaway, David Thwing, Chad Wojtysiak, Taran Katta, and Betsy Butler. **Guests:** Karen Klemm

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:36 a.m. by Christi Winchel at Kicks Unlimited. Thank you to Seth Degnan and Kicks Unlimited for hosting. Seth shared the exciting news of the growth of Kicks Unlimited. Congratulations!

Welcome & Introductions: Our guest today is Karen Klemm from Hope2Others.

Guest Presentation: Jill Conaway shared an introduction for Karen Klemm. Karen is here to give an awareness of the program. She shared information about what they do, which is training about childbirth, focusing on baby birthing and mom postpartum survival, all done in several countries, but primarily in Tanzania and Guatemala. Their next volunteer opportunity is a Warehouse Packing Day on Saturday, March 10, 9 am - 4 pm. where they will be packing items to send. Hats4Hope is a package of items to help save babies from dying from hypothermia.

Approval of January BEP Minutes: Motion made by Everson; seconded by Bailey. to approve the 1-18-18 minutes. Motion carried.

Student Feature: Taran Katta shared that several events happened this past month such as competitions for FBLA and DECA. He feels that students are getting more interested in the business field.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared the financial report. Yvonne Endicott emailed and shared that she can no longer attend meetings. McFarland State Bank is also short-staffed and unable to attend for a while. Dues have been coming in; expenses were the clings and Reality Rocks with minimal expenses. The payment for the All-School Read will come from the checking account as per Nancy's recommendation. The clings are here.

Membership Report: Chris Swenson reported that the clings are in. Clings need to be distributed; Chris needs everyone's help. Need to send out the reminder emailing about dues.

Calendar of Events: Everson shared the updated calendar. Need a March location -

PPA will host the meeting next month.

Unfinished Business/Old Business:

- Recruiting Breakfast: Invitations have gone out to 52 businesses. Three companies have responded so far.

New Business:

- All-School Read: Letter went out from the BEP showing our support.
- Adopt a Future Program: We have 12 students who are working toward receiving their scholarships, all who have been sponsored by a business. The committee needs to decide how many scholarships to give out this year. The committee will meet in April and look at applicants and decide the number of awardees then. We have a surplus in the account right now, so no new business sponsors need to be recruited.

Committee Reports

- Volunteers: Nancy reported we had a great group that went to PPMS and PVMS recently. Mock interviews were covered by a group from TDS. HS Students (FBLA students) came to PMMS and PVMS. We have not done the Up-a-Grade program (students who raised their GPA 1.0) last year or this year. How valuable is this program? No one has said anything about missing it to her. Everson: This program was time consuming and costly (gift cards); is it worth it? Bogart shared that the students and their peers loved it. It is the students who don't get attention (Swenson) - these kids need this. Thwing stated that we are reinforcing that what students have done has made a difference. We are saving money elsewhere in our programs (Bogart), so this isn't really a money issue (Everson). Bogart said we should recognize the secretary who helps. Discussion continued and concluded that recognizing these students is important and sends a message of encouragement. Marv Hupp stated at PPA when he saw it years ago, the acknowledgement now would be received better in the programs there. Raising their GPA there would be a big deal. Nancy needs our help recruiting volunteers to do this. Thwing stated that this program is parallel to our GRIT program. Nancy will check into starting this up again. The group felt that holding this event first thing in the morning is best.
- Reality Rocks: Patrick Malinowski is working on getting this ready for the April session. Winchell asked if there are business reps we need for any station. Malinowski said we are good.

- Marketing/Membership/PR: Discussed earlier. Breakfast and clings.
- Reading Buddies: Nothing new.
- GRIT: Krista is having trouble getting feedback from teachers regarding the program. She's trying to know what teachers like about GRIT. Board members feel that teachers are invested and see there is value (Chad W). Bogart stated that the more the teachers get into it, the more the kids get out of it. Do we do the t-shirts for grade 5 achievements in GRIT? Should Krista email the teachers about the t-shirts? Sponsorship could pay for the shirts. Nancy will ask Krista to try to get more feedback.
- Adopt a School: Nothing new at this time.
- Adopt a Future: Discussed earlier.
- Prairie Voices: The program may not happen this year. Betsy has resigned as head coordinator (too much time involved), and Dianne may be stepping down as well. We are having trouble finding anyone who will take it over. The program itself has to be redesigned for next year as funding/format availability is changing from the district.

Activities:

- Working Wednesdays: Going well.
- Teach-In/Career Day: Nothing at this time.
- Career Night: Nothing at this time.
- Mock Interviews: Nothing at this time
- New business for next month - n/a

Adjournment: Motion by Everson, seconded by Hupp to adjourn at 9:10 a.m. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 15 at Prairie Phoenix Academy at 7:30 a.m.

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