

*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  
May 17, 2018 – Minutes (taken by B. Butler)**

**Present:** Carol Smithson, Tim Fosdick, Christi Winchel, Chris Swenson, Nancy Everson, Jim Ertel, Sharlot Bogart, Patrick Malinowski, Jim Benzine, Vince Brandl, David Thwing, Krista Kaltenberg, Sarah Smith, Alex McAndrew, Taran Katta, James Ackley, Karen Bailey, and Betsy Butler. **Members/Guests:** Pam Blattner (Bank of Sun Prairie), Jean Skinner (SSM Health), Christie Neumann (Madison Kipp).

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:41 a.m. by James Ackley at QBE.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Thank you to Jim Benzine and QBE for hosting this morning's annual meeting.

**Approval of April BEP Minutes:** Motion made by Everson; seconded by Bogart to approve the 4-19-18 minutes. Motion carried.

**Student Feature:** Taran Katta reported that softball just won conference. FBLA is doing a fundraiser for the trip to Baltimore in July. DECA Nationals went very well. Taran introduced Alex McAndrew as the new student representative.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Everson explained for new people the financial structure of BEP and how she reports. She reported that the wood was purchased for the reading buddies program. Tech ed students at the high school are making the 900 bookcases needed for the program. Idea for delivery of the bookcases from students (Swenson). Thwing mentioned that it would be great to make a video of the students making the bookcases. We will be needing new Reading Buddies. \$2500 GRIT T-shirts expense will be coming.

Ackley read a thank you from the All-School read (2000 books were handed out). We had donated \$1000 to the program.

Rotary Visit on May 16 - James Ackley, Sharlot Bogart, and Nancy Everson visited and spoke about the BEP. Ackley shared the sheet they gave out and discussed our programs. Sharlot Bogart shared how to get the Rotary more involved. Ackley said he will connect the Rotary contact with Chris Swenson. Our focus right now is building not only membership, but also our volunteer base. Smith suggested approaching the Optimists and all the other groups. Everson stated that that James did a great job engaging the Rotary Club.

Members brought up previous Olympic Village involvement. Jean Skinner will be contacting the person who does the newsletter there to drum up more volunteers.

**Membership Report:** Chris Swenson stated that dues-paying members and volunteers go hand-in-hand. Swenson sees Reality Rocks as a great way to get people back volunteering. Fiscally, we are solid, but we really want to get all of our members back actively involved.

Ackley asked how we can support Swenson in membership. We will start with a new solid push, starting in August. Butler will take over contacting members for meetings and for the membership drive. It needs to be at a closer place to the board and is logical for the secretary to do so. Blattner suggested that she and Stephanie could partner with Chris in membership. Swenson asked members to continue delivering the clings.

More introductions: Vince Brandl will be the middle school rep from PMMS for next year, and he is here today.

**Calendar of Events:** Everson shared the upcoming events: On May 30, she needs people to recognize students who have been on time. Everson only has 6 people for the 2 schools. Thwing suggested to new board members just how low-stress, easy, and fun this event is. SSM Health Dean will be doing mock interviews.

Elementary recognitions will need a lot of help, with dates ranging from May 30-June 5, depending on the school. Everson stated that it will require shaking hands and handing out a certificate and a t-shirt to students.

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

- Annual meeting/October 18th Discussion: October 18th event will look similar to the WPPI breakfast format, with additions of tour of the building, Pro-Start kids making the food, etc.
- Slate - Christi Winchel and Sharlot Bogart will be co-presidents; Krista Kaltenberg will be VP; Nancy Everson (Treasurer) and Betsy Butler (Secretary) will continue. Motion made by Ackley to approve; seconded by Winchel. Motion carried.
- Board Position - The Bank of Sun Prairie will be an official board member now.
- Ackley thanked Jim Benzine and QBE for hosting. Benzine explained more about the company and their work, facilities, etc. Everson stated that QBE has been a great partner with volunteers at Reality Rocks. They also hire many high school students in apprenticeship roles where students have great experiences.

- A.L.I.C.E. Training Opportunity - at Patrick Marsh Middle School, August 6-7. Contact Ackley if interested.

### **New Business:**

- City Promotion Video Opportunity - as part of the video that's being produced for the city, the city would like to feature the BEP. They also chose 20 businesses to highlight. Everson said more information will be forthcoming. If it is free, we will jump on board; if a cost, we will wait a year.
- Nancy will be leading some professional development for teachers this summer where teachers visiting businesses in Sun Prairie during two days in June (11-12). Teachers want to visit businesses to learn more about what is out there in our community and what skills students need to have. James Ackley explained more about what teachers are required to do. Everson suggested offering these opportunities for teachers throughout the year.
- McFarland High School is holding interviews of every senior today by business people. Everson is suggesting we look to do this at our high school. Maybe we look to do a pilot.
- PPA - Smith shared information about the Jobs for America program which provides direct support and case management for some students to get through graduation and job experiences. They are planning a job fair/tradeshow on September 27th.

### **Committee Reports**

- Volunteers: Discussed earlier.
- Reality Rocks: Malinowski stated that things went well (286 students participated this spring). Volunteers were great, and things went smoothly. Feedback has been positive. Everson explained that grants are available for schools who want to push financial literacy. We have minimal costs as it is now. The board discussed that this did not make sense for changing Reality Rocks. Malinowski suggested we think about providing opportunities for students to learn about investing or learn about true entrepreneurship. How could we do this? Ertel suggested we look at expanding the Stock Market simulation. Let's discuss this in the fall.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Discussed earlier.
- Reading Buddies: Discussed earlier.
- GRIT: Recognitions coming up.
- Adopt a School: Frontier is visiting this May.

- Adopt a Future: The financial balance of the program is very solid. We gave away 2 scholarships this year. Swenson suggested refining the program for next year and possibly giving out more scholarships.

**Activities:**

- Working Wednesdays: Booked until the end of the year.
- Teach-In/Career Day: Nothing at this time.
- Career Night: Nothing at this time.
- Mock Interviews: Already discussed.

Ackley thanked everyone and stated that he enjoyed being the president this year. The board thanked James Ackley for his work and leadership as president, and Sharlot Bogart thanked him for getting things in place for them (Bogart and Winchel as co-presidents-elect). The board thanked Taran Katta for his dedication as the student rep. Taran is attending UW-Madison, majoring in finance.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Bogart, seconded by Everson to adjourn at 9:04 a.m. Motion carried.

**Next meeting: Thursday, August 16th at Kicks Unlimited at 7:30 a.m.**

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