

**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**

**December 20, 2018 – Minutes (taken by B. Butler)**

**Board Members Present:** Alex McAndrew, Jim Ertel, James Ackley, Vince Brandl, Krista Kaltenberg, Christi Winchel, Marv Hupp, David Thwing, Chris Swenson, Jill Conaway, Patrick Malinowski, Seth Degnan, Sharlot Bogart, Carol Smithson, Karen Bailey, Shirley Statz, Nancy Everson, Pam Blattner, Betsy Butler. **BEP Members:** Jean Skinner, Ray Koepcke, Joe Statz.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by Sharlot Bogart at the home of Shirley Statz.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Thank you to Shirley Statz and her family for hosting this morning. So nice to meet their dear friend Roberto from Brazil. They shared Roberto's story of his work with the Statz Farms and his own farming in Brazil. Joe Statz shared information about his farming and the state of the farming industry in the US and how things are rough with family farms. Their farm is truly a family business.

**Approval of November BEP Minutes:** Motion made by Everson; seconded by Bailey to approve the 11-15-18 minutes. Motion carried.

**Student Feature:** Alex McAndrew has been hired by Park Bank. He shared that it's 2 days before break, and students are ready for a break. Winter sports are well underway by now, Hockey is ranked high, and wrestling is doing well. Ugly sweater day is tomorrow. The FBLA needs judges for their upcoming competition on Saturday, February 2. The task would be judging presentations. Alex sent an email out, asking for help. One of our students is VP of the state FBLA; this event will have a thousand students participating. The event is to be held at Deforest High School. They desperately need 80-100 judges. It's in the morning, 8:00 a.m. until about 1 p.m. Please contact Nancy Everson if you are interested.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Everson shared the update. We brought in more money for Reading Buddies; 14 members have not paid yet. Expenses were paying Beans for catering the showcase event, the Adopt-a-School banner at RO, Reality Rocks food, and Chamber dues. Balances are good. No debts. Dues have been continuing to come in.

**Calendar of Events:** Everson shared the updated calendar of events. Next big events are mock interviews on January 10 - she needs people. She will send out an email. Next board meeting is at Royle. February is at the Prairie Athletic Club. GRIT recognitions will be soon. We need a meeting place for May yet.

Please note: April Board meeting is April 11, the week before usual due to our normal 3rd Thursday meeting date falling during spring break.

## Unfinished Business/Old Business:

- Senior Exit Interviews - This is a project that Nancy would like us to consider. Business community members would come in and do a face to face interview with each and every student. She shared that McFarland High School does this. Could we do this? She is suggesting that we pilot this for a sample grouping of students. Swenson suggested this be anonymous. Do you think we could pull this off for 25% of the class? Everson, Ertel, and Butler will work on this.
- Skinner asked about the October Showcase meeting and the results of recruiting new members. Two new business members have joined from that event so far with a couple other businesses being interested.

## Committee Reports

- 30th Anniversary Committee: The event is now scheduled for May 16, and will include the bench dedication and honoring member. Winchel discussed our goal for 30 new businesses. New businesses are Crazy Daisy, Elite Embroidery, Prairie Plastics, Pro-Health Chiropractic, Proactive Engineering. Possible new recruits: Capitol Physical Therapy, Patio Pleasures, Robertson Cosmetic Surgery, Trachte, Walmart, Gorilla Movers. Winchel asked for people to send names for her to make appointments; she is more than willing to make contact.
- Adopt a Future: Sarah Smith has met with Kathy Enstad. Betsy got the information from Chandu and shared it with Sarah. It was suggested that we set up a GRIT scholarship. Possibly adding a 10th grade option for students to re-apply for the scholarship. The Committee will set up a meeting.
- Adopt a School: Ackley stated that the kick-off was in early December. Woodman's brought 6 employees over to Royal Oaks to work with students. QBE is adopting Meadow View Elementary as a partner.
- GRIT: First GRIT nominees coming from Woodman's and Menard's. James is piloting a change at Royal Oaks, putting teachers at a comfortable place. Next year they will add the business member to discussing this more. Krista will share out what is happening at RO and suggest that this may be the way to go. Butler suggested that we make this a program change for elementary schools across the board. This becomes a program of teaching and building GRIT (Thwing). Winchel suggested using the bracelet, possibly for middle schools, lanyards for high schools.
- Marketing/Membership/PR:
  - An early start to the membership cycle has been fine. We are \$6675 in incoming dues. Second reminder notice was recently sent out. Frank Shelhamer from Woodman's has come through with membership for this year after a discussion with Swenson. Swenson sends out an email to every new and renewal member.
  - We are looking at better identifying our tax-exempt status.

- o Website update - We need to have the contact information of Kent Orfan given to Marv. Everson has sent Marv the information. We should be able to have this transferred to our school district server.
- Reading Buddies: Nothing new.
- Reality Rocks: Patrick Malinowski reported that RR went well. Send any feedback to Patrick and Nancy. Only 225 students next time in April. We will need savings ledgers next time and more housing lines. Comments from students were great. May 1 is the next Reality Rocks.

**Activities:**

- Mock Interviews: Already reported earlier in meeting.
- Teach-In/Career Day: Schools haven't asked yet for any help.
- Working Wednesdays: Looking for businesses. Please contact Jim Ertel. Openings are available.

**Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:**

A whole team of people from WI dells came in to visit our high school as they are making changes there. Loved the Working Wednesdays idea.

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

**Next meeting:** Our next board meeting is on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at Royle Printing.

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