

**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**  
**October 17, 2019 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)**

**Board Members:** Karen Bailey, Ray Koepcke, Vince Brandl, Betsy Butler, Seth Degnan, Jim Ertel, Marv Hupp, Katy Johnson, Krista Kaltenberg, Patrick Malinowski, Alex McAndrew, Chris Swenson, David Thwing, Evan Warwick, Christi Winchel. **BEP Members:** Chad Wojtysiak.  
**Guest:** none today

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:32 a.m. by Krista Kaltenberg at Brooks Tractor, Inc.

**Welcome & Introductions:** Thank you to Brooks Tractor and Truie Brobston for hosting this morning. Brooks Tractor has been in business for 75 years. It was started after WWII. In 1963, Brooks got a contract with John Deere. They will have 7 locations as of next year and employ over 100 people. They sell, rent, lease heavy equipment. Thirty employees are employed at this location, as Sun Prairie is its headquarters.

**Approval of September BEP Minutes:** One correction to be made in month listed for minutes. Motion made by Patrick Malinowski; seconded by Christi Winchel to approve the September minutes. Motion carried.

**Student Feature:** Alex McAndrew shared that SPSHS homecoming week was last week, where students had dress up days, a pep rally, girls powderpuff football, boys powderpuff volleyball, and the annual homecoming dance. Our girls swim & dive team is doing very well, our highly ranked volleyball team is working its way to state, and coming in mid November our drama production team is producing *Footloose*.

**Guest Feature:** None today

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Swenson shared the report for Nancy Everson who was absent today. The Summit account is now closed, and our account is now at the Bank of Sun Prairie. The Reading Buddies money continues to come in; the renewal of the BEP domain/website is now set for the next 6 years. Marv Hupp made a motion to approve the report as read. Winchel seconded. Motion carried.

**Calendar of Events:** Betsy shared the calendar from Nancy. All board meeting months are now covered.

**Unfinished Business/Old Business:**

- Nothing today.

## Committee Reports

- Adopt a Future: Chris Swenson has been in contact with the Phillies, a group of retired teachers who stay anonymous. Letters from the students to the donors was a good thing, and another letter should be sent. This communication piece should stay a part of the program.
- Adopt a School: Nothing to report at this time.
- GRIT: Kaltenberg stated that Bird school felt the latest “teaching” went well. There needs to be better communication to all schools. Talking points were mentioned as being needed and Kaltenberg said that Ackley’s list had been shared with all schools. Brandl would like to see the “learning continue to the middle schools. First quarter was disjointed due to the change. Refining the message needs to happen and go out to all members; concern was raised by Creekside and discussed some at the BEP board level. The HS GRIT recognition at Wilde East Towne Honda was wonderful, and several people spoke there. It was the most touching and moving one that Swenson has seen. A video was shot of the event. PPA posted it on the wall for the student to be recognized there. The video will be shared for the website and Facebook site.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Butler sent invoices out. Swenson shared that he’d like to use the excel spreadsheet list and send out another email to all members about the PayPal option, possibly to get businesses to pay earlier. A couple of new businesses will be coming on. Swensen sent thank you emails last year; he’d like others to thank them as well. Remember on PayPal there is a service charge. Folder counting party is October 23 at 3:15 pm at WWA (Swenson’s business) if you able to attend. We need help counting and delivering.
- Reading Buddies: Seth Degnan waiting on 80 bookcases yet and then all will have been delivered.
- Reality Rocks: Patrick Malinowski stated that the next Reality Rocks is Dec. 12. Malinowski is meeting with Nancy soon to check on pricing to make sure it is current. Nancy will organize the volunteers after that. Watch for emails and please respond.

## Activities:

- Mock Interviews: October 24 , 8-10 a.m. at the high school. Nancy will send emails.
- Teach-In/Career Day: Brandl -
- Working Wednesdays: Ertel stated that Colony Brands was there this week and coming in again next week. Students are telling their places of employment about it - American Eagle called asking about it.
- Job Fair - Need to look at dates again. AP Testing is the week mentioned for doing this.
- Senior Exit Interviews - Everson and Ertel need to meet.

## Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:

- Shout out to Bank of Sun Prairie for sponsoring Marsh Madness where the 7C students from Patrick Marsh Middle School taught the 2nd graders from Eastside & Royal Oaks and

the 1st graders from Northside all about the marsh & our local ecosystem. This was a great event and will become an annual event.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Degnan, seconded by Winchel to adjourn at 8:16 a.m. Motion carried.

**Next meeting:** Our next board meeting is Thursday, November 21, 2019, at Royle Printing at 7:30 a.m.

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