

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
August 20, 2020 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)

Board Members: Carol Albright, Karen Bailey, Pam Blattner, Sharlot Bogart, Vince Brandl, Betsy Butler, Saraha Chaja-Clardy, Jill Conaway, Craig Coulthart, Seth Degnan, Nancy Everson, James Ertel, Marv Hupp, Krista Kaltenberg, Ray Koepcke, Patrick Malinowski, Keith Nerby, Carol Smithson, Shirley Statz, Chris Swenson, David Thwing, Tiffany Yapp. **BEP Members:** Jennifer Mead, Amy Skicki, Vince Washebeck, Chad Wojtysiak

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m. by Patrick Malinowski on Zoom.

Approval of 2-20-20 BEP Minutes: Motion made by Nancy Everson; seconded by Shirley Statz to approve the February minutes. Motion carried.

Introduction of members and guests: All members and guests introduced themselves. Thank you for the great turn-out for today's meeting.

Patrick Malinowski addressed recent BEP security issues where a criminal element has been sending emails on behalf of members of the BEP, usually asking for gift cards to be purchased. Please ignore these ploys; they do look very legitimate. No one from the BEP will ever ask you for any purchases to be made on our behalf with reimbursement later. Many business and school members stated that this is a common problem and not just a BEP issue.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared the report previously and states that we are financially sound. We have had no activity because we have not been in school. Everson brought up the question of collecting dues this year - do we do this or not? Accounts are solid, and activities will likely be less and or less costly. Swenson stated that financially we do not need to do so. Skicki suggested we acknowledge businesses that are doing fine and allow them to contribute in a way. Conaway suggested sending a letter out stating that we are not asking for dues, we treasure your membership, etc. Albright asked if we have anticipated the additional expenses of the second high school; Malinowski stated that we have. Malinowski asked Skicki to send the sample letters with some possible verbage for a letter to him.

Dues Change for 2020-21: A motion was made to allow members a grace year with suspended mandatory dues payments for 2020-2021 by Nancy Everson, seconded by Jill Conaway and Chris Swenson. In discussion, it was suggested that we suggest if a member is in good financial standing and would like to continue paying dues for this year, we would not object. Betsy Butler will draft our annual letter with these changes and will bring it forth to the exec team (president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary) and Chris Swenson.

Meeting day change for 2020: It has been suggested that we change our Thursday morning meeting for the 2020-2021 school year only to the third Wednesday morning of the month to accommodate our teachers who will need to be teaching online on Thursday mornings.

Wednesday is the new day designated for meetings where teachers will be free, but we will keep the same 7:30 a.m. start. No motion needs to be made to adjust this day.

Checking In/How are We Doing:

Members were broken into breakout rooms groupings where they discussed the following questions:

- A. How is your business positively pivoting and adapting through this situation?
- B. How can the BEP use what's working well for your business and adapt it to its programs?
- C. What impact, if any, will COVID have on your (or your company's) ability to participate in our programs this year?

Members freely shared their situations and ideas, sharing how their businesses have adapted. Our businesses shared all the amazing ways they have adapted to the situation. Everson stated how pleased she was that the Chamber has joined us today.

Ideas mentioned for the BEP programs: Leonard-Witte shared how she adapted her Reading Buddy situation in the spring (drop off of books at students' homes, Zoom or videotaped reading of the books, etc.). She and Craig Coulthart volunteer to work on possible logistics of this. Members saw multiple ways to adapt Mock Interviews, GRIT, etc. And the enthusiasm members shared through their brainstorming and flexibility was inspiring. Members felt that technology, adaptability, and enthusiasm are the keys to continuing our programs.

Programs & Activities:

- Adopt a Future: This program will continue; this can be done online.
- Adopt a School: No plans at this time.
- GRIT: The exec team will discuss how to proceed with this at each level.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Previously discussed.
- Reading Buddies: Everson, Leonard-Witte, and Coulthart will work on the logistics of this program. Members shared many great ideas.
- Reality Rocks: Economics teachers have already been discussing how to adapt this program. Members are very interested in supporting this in any way they can.

BEP Programs / Activities:

- Mock Interviews: Nancy feels this can definitely continue as this online situation is the new norm. She will coordinate this with the teachers as they have needs.
- Teach-In/Career Day: Vince Brandl will be checking on this program.
- PMMS Pilot - Vince Brandl will advise.
- Working Wednesdays: Ertel feels we can find a way to offer this opportunity to students online.
- Job Fair - This project is on hold at this time.

- Senior Exit Interviews - Nothing to report at this time.

Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:

- Members asked for a meeting reminder to be sent 2 days before the meeting in addition to one-week out notice.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Chris Swenson; seconded by Nancy Everson. Motion carried at 8:55 a.m.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Weds., September 16, 2020, on Zoom.

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