

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
September 16, 2020 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)

Board Members: Carol Albright, Karen Bailey, Pam Blattner, Sharlot Bogart, Vince Brandl, Betsy Butler, Sarah 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. **BEP Members:** Amy Skicki, Chad Wojtysiak

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:36 a.m. by Patrick Malinowski on Zoom.

Approval of 9-16-20 BEP Minutes: Motion made by Nancy Everson; seconded by Shirley Statz to approve the August minutes. Motion carried.

Introduction of members and guests: Stephanie Leonard-Witte introduced Jamie Racine, the Community Schools director. Northside Elementary is the fifth Community School in the district now. Jamie holds a position on the board. Malinowski asked everyone to introduce themselves to our newer members.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared that we have had no expenses or income. Report has not changed since last March. Financially we are sound. She would like to prepare a budget, but with the current situation, she is unable to do so. Whatever we decide to do this year for our programs, we are in good shape. There were no questions.

Calendar of Events: Nothing is set at this time. Hopefully, this will change soon. Malinowski explained how this would be different in a normal year.

Unfinished/New Business: Several running items will be addressed in committee and activity reports. Nancy Everson did share concerns over Child Labor laws and students working during school hours; it is illegal for students to work during the time when they should be in school. Amy Skicki shared that the chamber has communicated information about this to its members. We discussed many aspects of this issue, especially during this pandemic. The school is reaching out to students who are not engaging or attending school, working with these students to create a situation that works best for them and families.

Committee Reports:

- Adopt a Future: Nothing to do for this committee yet. Everson explained the current program where 9th grade students in the AVID program are able to apply for this scholarship, which is awarded in grade 12. There is concern that AVID students have access to multiple scholarships where other groups of students do not have this advantage. We will ask the committee to evaluate the program this winter and make a recommendation to the board, prior to the next scholarship cycle.

- Adopt a School: Currently on hold. Pam Blattner suggested we look to create videos or supports to help teachers in some way, possibly reading books on videos. She's looking for ways to still be active with the students. Jamie Racine shared that Patrick Marsh is looking for volunteers to read to students for 20 minutes a day through a Reading Jumpstart program. Malinowski shared concerns over live Zooms and privacy issues. We will be looking to the district for guidance on this. Leonard-Witte shared there is a proposal for Reading Buddies.
- GRIT:
 - Elementary level - Krista is working on sending out a letter to businesses to create recordings to help with GRIT. She'd like to use the talking points we used last year to help guide those videos, all to keep students connected with GRIT. Pencils and folders will be put on hold. Possibly this may change later this year.
 - Middle school level - Vince Brandl shared what was done last year with taking students to businesses. He will pilot a new aspect of this program to share these experiences that will be digital and work perfectly in this current situation. He has additional ideas to test as well.
 - Cardinal Heights - using their learning lab, having businesses come to speak about GRIT with other aspects of student learning needs.
 - High school level - Everson is working with Amy Skicki to get the information out to businesses about the program where we recognize student employees at their place of work. Logistics will need to be figured out after we get nominations.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Chris Swenson shared that Betsy Butler and Malinowski are working on the letters to send out. Cling colors will be black & white this year. Swenson would like to just send the clings out with the letter. Butler shared part of the letter. Albright is willing to stuff envelopes to help with this process.
- Reading Buddies: Everson has reached out to all businesses who participated last year; some still need to respond. Many businesses have questions. Seth Degnan and Everson will check with the businesses to see who would like to continue. Skicki sent the word out to get more businesses as we need a few more. Leonard-Witte and Craig Coulthart worked through how the program may work and shared her plan. The readings could occur during the live morning meetings with the teacher or teachers could use taped videos of business partners reading through the Seesaw program for students to access. Bookshelves (creation and distribution) would have to be determined later depending on the situation at the time.
- Reality Rocks: Malinowski reached out to the teachers. Last spring, the economics teachers created modules to try to do what had been done. Teachers are open for any support we can figure out. Everson discussed a virtual way to do a "reality rocks" type program that a credit union is putting out there. Malinowski should be able to share a similar program with Everson. Blattner shared that the Bank of Sun Prairie has launched simulations in financial education that may be able to be used. Swenson also shared he has materials that can be used as well on the investment side of things.

BEP Programs / Activities:

- Mock Interviews: Everson has concerns over virtual mock interviews; not as easily monitored. Leonard-Witte is waiting to hear back from Keleen Kaye who handles our digital concerns as to how we could possibly do this. Teachers have not asked for this yet.
- Middle School BEP Pilot: Vince Brandl spoke to this earlier in the updates.
- Working Wednesdays: Ertel is looking into this. Possibly videos could be posted through the BEP website for students to access.
- Job Fair - This project is on hold at this time. Everson will continue to work with the chamber on a virtual job fair for students.
- Senior Exit Interviews - This project is also on hold at this time.

Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:

- Feedback from businesses and teachers regarding COVID: Nothing to share at this time. Brandl shared that Zoom breakout rooms involve more voices. He suggested we use this in some way to generate and share ideas. Malinowski asked if people had ideas about how to do this to contact him at his email address. Leonard-Witte shared about the use of a private youtube channel to keep videos private.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Everson; seconded by Marv Hupp. Motion carried at 8:50 a.m.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Wednesday, October 21, 2020, on Zoom.

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