

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 21, 2020 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)

Board Members: Shirley Statz, Karen Bailey, Craig Couthardt, Vince Brandl, Ray Koepcke, Nancy Everson, Sharlot Bogart, Chris Swenson, Krista Kaltenberg, Marv Hupp, Jill Conaway, Seth Degnan, Christi Winchel, Stephanie Leonard-Witte, Jim Ertel, Ryan Newquist, Katie Johnson, Stephanie Wallom, Sarah Chaja-Clardy, Patrick Malinowski, Jamie Racine, David Thwing, Carol Smithson, Pam Blattner. **BEP Members:** Jennifer Mead, Amy Skicki

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 am by Patrick Malinowski on Zoom.

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

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared that there was no activity since last month. One expense: \$75 to the State of Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions for the annual report and \$200 added back into the checkbook balance from a Reading Buddy who never cashed the check. Swenson mentioned that there was one bill that came in for the window clings (~\$300). Balances are solid in all other accounts.

Calendar of Events: No events right now. No requests for mock interviews as of yet. Normal calendar would be busy and full; this is sad. But teachers are doing all that they can at this point.

Unfinished/New Business:

Committee Reports:

- Adopt a Future: Everson brought up a concern that was shared about if the scholarship is being offered to the group of students that it was intended to help; are we being fair to all students? The committee will need to discuss this. Leonard-Witte asked for clarification on what the original intention of the scholarship was. Everson explained it was as an incentive program where the business and the student were linked and shared communication through letters each year. Recently, the program, due to support changes, was linked to the AVID program. Students are not collecting their scholarships. Swenson stated that tracking the student is a factor; there's a lot of work involved with this. Conaway stated that the AVID partnership happened due to this need. Committee will meet and come back with a recommendation.
- Adopt a School: Currently on hold.
- GRIT:
 - Elementary level - Krista Kaltenberg reported that she is still putting together her final draft of the letter to teachers. The idea at this level is to have businesses make videos that address aspects of GRIT so that teachers can use them when

they are able. Malinowski is concerned about where we can house videos. These videos could be housed in a Google drive through our teachers and shared out.

- o Middle school level - Vince Brandl reported that things have been a rollercoaster; the digital systems are mind-boggling and they keep changing. Working with his team at PMMS, they've brought people from Microsoft Teams, librarians, the mayor's group, Groundswell, and Brandl has used the GRIT acronym as a frame for these visits' questions. Initial feedback from students is in reflection form (recording or thank you letters). Adult reflections from teachers is the need to not be overwhelmed; Brandl has done all he can to accommodate their concerns. Brandl is trying to coordinate this across the city with PVMS; recorded experiences have been shared.
- o Upper middle school - Ryan Newquist reported that guest speakers have been coming into his classroom, speaking about college readiness and soft skill importance. Students are applying this information to their projects. This work is through the Intro to Business & Marketing classes. Nothing school-wide at the moment.
- o High school level - Everson shared we have not had any nominations yet this year from any local businesses. QBE has one, but everyone is working from home so this does not work. Skicki suggested a Zoom bomb during a meeting with the supervisor to surprise the student that way digitally. Butler will send our business members the information and nomination link. Everson will send the information to The Star. Mead has one at Prairie Kids Club who she can nominate. Butler will send it to her.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Chris Swenson shared that Butler has renewal membership letters/envelopes ready to go, and once the clings are added, these will be going out shortly. We are spending little, and our accounts are fine and can support what we are able to do, so financially we will be fine. The Chamber has a fund to help businesses that are struggling, so let her know if anyone hears of a business in this position. Swenson is doing very little follow-up this year in terms of pushing membership due to the pandemic. Bogart mentioned that she has a prospect and asked for the information digitally. Everson asked for some membership packets from Swenson for when she and Skicki go to visit new businesses. The brochure has not been updated in some time and needs to be.
- Reading Buddies: Everson reported we are short 6 partners currently. Everson explained the commitment of each business to adopt: \$100 for books and read to kids once a month. Coulthardt asked if the district might be able to cover this shortage this year. Leonard-Witte suggested we adjust the schedule somewhat and figure it out. Others volunteered. Butler suggested we needed to talk to teachers to see if they want Zoom visitors or a video to use as they'd like. Leonard-Witte suggested having chosen books this year for all teachers to minimize work for teachers (they would not need to choose books). Bogart stated we need to do all schools. Leonard-Witte suggested the district can cover any missing classrooms if need be for this year only.

- Reality Rocks: Everson stated that the county was looking at a virtual program, but they have not made any headway at all with this. Malinowski stated that teachers are overwhelmed with trying to adjust their curriculum to the current time parameters and they are adjusting as they are able. It is not the same experience, but it is what students can realistically do at this time. Malinowski will contact Jenny Josheff to see what they decided to do this semester. We will need to evaluate this again in the second semester; maybe we do something next year for students who missed out on the Reality Rocks experience this year.

BEP Programs / Activities:

- Mock Interviews: Everson stated again that there have not been any requests as of yet. Newquist will ask teachers at the high school if they have the need.
- Middle School BEP Pilot: Vince Brandl reiterated his comments from before regarding the “See Me, Inspire Me” interactions between businesses and students. Malinowski asked if we have the ability to update our website ourselves. Hupp said we do have access pictures and minutes, but we are limited in other ways (cannot change the home page for some reason). He has not had time to update the website since last spring and has not received anything new to use anyway.
- Working Wednesdays: Jim Ertel reported that there are no takers yet.
- Job Fair - Everson stated that Skicki at the Chamber is going to reach out to members to see what job needs are there. Based on that feedback, we may go ahead with something if there is need.
- 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: Malinowski asked for any thoughts for feedback on how people are adapting and surviving. Mark Hupp shared that at PPA they have had guest speakers via Zoom, sharing with students, even guest speakers from Africa. Everson asked for the new principal of PPA to come and speak to the BEP Board so that we could get to know him. Hupp will speak to him and see what he can arrange; Hupp will see if it works for next month.
- Zoom breakouts requested: Adopt-a-Future Committee will meet briefly and set up a meeting date.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Everson; seconded by Hupp. Motion carried at 8:54 a.m.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7:30 a.m. on Zoom via the same link.

Vision: *Preparing and supporting today's students for tomorrow's workforce.*
Mission: *Uniting schools and businesses to help students prepare for their futures.*