

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

BEP Board Members: Carol Albright, Shirley Statz, Craig Couthardt, Vince Brandl, Ray Koepcke, Nancy Everson, Sharlot Bogart, Chris Swenson, Seth Degnan, Christi Winchel, Stephanie Leonard-Witte, Jim Ertel, Katie Johnson, Stephanie Wallom, Patrick Malinowski, Jamie Racine, Pam Blattner, Krista Kaltenberg, Ryan Newquist, Sarah Chaja-Clardy, Betsy Butler. **Additional BEP Members:** Dan McIlroy

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:32 am by Patrick Malinowski on Zoom.

Approval of 11-18-20 BEP Minutes: Motion made by Everson; seconded by Statz to approve the November minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared the treasurer's report. We have taken in an additional \$2725 in dues for the month of November. Expenses for the month was \$60 for gift cards for GRIT presentations. \$100 came in for Reading Buddies. Swenson asked Koepcke to check the accounts prior to the next meeting.

Calendar of Events: No new events at this time, except for GRIT presentations.

Unfinished/New Business:

Junior Prom: Everson brought up that Jenny Josheff had spoken with her. Josheff is the junior class advisor. If you remember, prom was canceled last year; Josheff is meeting with the officers to look at what they can do for this year. Everson suggested that possibly businesses could donate food for kids to pick up, or have some sort of fun door prizes. The group is meeting in February regarding some sort of virtual prom or whatever they can do that is safe. If you have any ideas, please share with Nancy Everson.

Committee Reports:

- Adopt a Future: Enstad and Butler revised the application for candidates, adjusting the essay prompt so it gives a more complete picture of the student other than things listed in the general application. Enstad has had to start the application process sooner this year.
- Adopt a School: Currently on hold.
- GRIT:
 - Elementary level - Kaltenberg shared that there was nothing new on this. Swenson asked about the pencils this year, whether or not we would be using them this year. McIlroy said it would be no problem to get pencils quickly when needed. Everson also shared that we still have all of the t-shirts last year yet. The t-shirts do not have a date on them. Couthardt shared that volunteers will

most likely not be coming into buildings at all this school year based on the current situation. Kaltenberg has the video from Woodman's. Malinowski and Wincehl stated that they would do videos, using all 4 letters at the same time.

- o Middle school level - Vince Brandl thanked all the elementary teachers and all that they are doing. He also talked about keeping the connections with students, figuring out how to share student stories down the road with younger students. Everson agreed we need to have them tell their stories. Malinowski also thought about these former students creating a GRIT video for younger students. Everson suggested reaching out to JT Ruffin and having them create videos. Malinowski suggested even looking for something for 2nd and 3rd graders.

Brandl shared about his grant from the Education Foundation. He obtained 30 sets of snowshoes and will have them in bags with books, coding activities, etc. for students to have access to, sort of like the public library book bag idea.

- o Upper middle school - Ryan Newquist stated nothing to report at the moment.
- o High school level - Everson shared that we have another presentation at the Bank of Sun Prairie tomorrow. Students will be surprised and parents have been invited. Day One Pizza has 3 more students they would like to honor soon.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Chris Swenson shared that we now have \$4425 in membership dues collected. He is sending email thank you's. He's sure more will be coming in without a second ask.
- Reading Buddies: Everson asked Stephanie Leonard-Witte to share what she and Craig have been working on. Three titles have been ordered for each first grade student so far (Jan-March), a total of 700 books each month. A video of a BEP member reading each month reading the month's book will be sent to teachers to use as they are able to do so, either together or independently. Teachers who have a close relationship with their reading buddy, Zooms can be set up between the teacher and the reading buddy. We have kept this simple and have communicated with all principals at SPASD and Sacred Hearts. The students in the 18-21 program will label and count the books in preparation for sending book deliveries out monthly to the schools. BEP members were very appreciative of the work Leonard-Witte has done in adjusting this project.
- Reality Rocks: Malinowski asked about Jennifer Josheff's list of topics that teachers were interested in; this has not been sent out to members yet. Teachers wanted clarification about the use of the app considering the agreement with the Bank of Sun Prairie regarding Financial Education and any possible conflicts. Everson has not had a response from Rosseter yet. Albright and Leonard-Witte will follow up on this and get back to Everson. Newquist asked to be included in what is deemed appropriate as well. McIlroy asked if we could do this somehow virtually, possibly like an online trade show. Ertel said he is happy to help out with whatever is being put together. Everson reminded all that there is a lot of preparation needed by Econ teachers prior to the event. Newquist asked if we could do this asynchronously. Malinowski will keep working with the Econ teachers. McIlroy will connect with Nancy regarding the virtual option.

BEP Programs / Activities:

- Mock Interviews: Newquist stated that he would need mock interviewers at the end of third quarter/fourth quarter for his class. He will contact Kurt Nickelsburg in his PLC meeting today and see what his needs are coming up.
- Working Wednesdays: Jim Ertel reported that no one has contacted him. They do have a site to post this information. Information can be sent out to students through Infinite Campus.
- Job Fair - On hold.
- Senior Exit Interviews - This project is also on hold at this time.

Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:

- Malinowski thanked everyone for navigating 2020; hopefully 2021 is much happier and brighter. Swenson recognized Sharlot Bogart for her outstanding use of Zoom today.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Everson; seconded by Statz. Motion carried at 8:20 a.m. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 7:30 a.m. on Zoom via the same link.

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