

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
January 20, 2021 – 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, Stephanie Leonard-Witte, Jim Ertel, Stephanie Wallom, Patrick Malinowski, Jamie Racine, Pam Blattner, Krista Kaltenberg, Sarah Chaja-Clardy, Marv Hupp, Jill Conaway, Karen Bailey, Betsy Butler.

Additional BEP Members: Amy Skicki

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

Approval of 12-16-20 BEP Minutes: Motion made by Statz; seconded by Everson to approve the December minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared that a student claimed a scholarship. Items were purchased for GRIT presentations for an expense of \$60. Dues received were \$425 for this month. Our balances remain solid. Koepcke reported that all accounts look good and accounts match Everson's report. The amount of \$1000 will be transferred from the holdings into the checking account to replace the amount given in scholarship claims. We do anticipate a large bill of approximately \$7600 for the purchase of Reading Buddy books.

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

Unfinished/New Business:

Ertel reported that high school students have the opportunity to return to class 2 days a week starting February 22 in smaller groupings. He also shared that our custodial staff deserves a shout out for all of their work with changes and cleanings.

Everson made the request from Kurt Nickelsburg for guest speakers in the business classes focused on interpersonal skills. Amy Skicki is interested in helping with this project and will send out more solid information to send out to find more interest. If there is not enough expressed interest, she and Everson can work to fill the needs. As far as next steps with this project, Everson says this will start the fourth quarter of school and be virtual. Racine asked if these presentations could be recorded and saved, giving for the opportunity for further use. Everson and Skicki will work on this project. Everson will confirm that this is a virtual request, exactly what time expectations are, and any other details we can get.

Malinowski asked if the Econ teachers need speakers as well. Everson stated that the teachers had not responded regarding that. Everson will check with them.

Committee Reports:

- Adopt a Future: Bogart shared that the committee is excited that one scholarship has been claimed and paid out. Everson stated that there are no new updates - the deadlines are in place and the process for this year is beginning.
- Adopt a School: Currently on hold.
- GRIT:
 - Elementary level - Kaltenberg shared the videos have not been used yet. She is having difficulty finding time to get the letters out to teachers. Everson asked if Coulthart could try to push this out to teachers at least in his building; he offered to help Kaltenberg.
 - Middle school level - Vince Brandl praised the elementary teachers and all that they are doing. He also mentioned praise for all that businesses are doing to juggle all of this. He has nothing to report at this time due to time factors limiting any work in this area.
 - Upper middle school - Ryan Newquist not present to report.
 - High school level - Everson and Butler stated that presentations are happening, we are getting press, photos are up in school. We are doing what we can. Culver's has made a request for a presentation that the board discussed at length due to the fact that the worker is a Deforest student, not Sun Prairie. The pros and cons of in-city or not, impact on the student, concern over the precedent that would be set, questions regarding what our intent is with this award, etc. Twing suggested that exceptions could be made for students outside of the school district if the business is in the Sun Prairie district; Sun Prairie students working in other cities could also be honored. Malinowski asked about the optics of non-Sun Prairie students being honored. Albright clarified that the designation for the recognition could be a Sun Prairie business or Sun Prairie student. Everson and others felt strongly about supporting the business request in any way we can. Swenson reminded people that we have done this whether or not a business is a member if the student is a Sun Prairie student. Malinowski repeated that the designation for the recognition could be a Sun Prairie business or Sun Prairie student. Everson stated that she expects attendance at the event whether or not it is a Sun Prairie student; this is a really fun and valuable experience for kids and for the business.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Chris Swenson shared that total dues last year were \$5475; this year, we are at \$5200 already this year. Some have thrown out Reading Buddy payments as well. We are financially sound.
- Reading Buddies: Stephanie Leonard-Witte reported that the January book has been distributed. The video readers are Leonard-Witte for January; Winchel for February; Degnan for March. Leonard-Witte will be ordering books for the last 2 months. She is thrilled that we are committed to doing this for kids to get books in their hands. Swenson asked when the district needs payment and if board members can see the recordings. Leonard-Witte is paying for the books upfront through the district and will send a bill

upon completion of the process this year. No feedback has been obtained from teachers yet as a whole, although 2 teachers reached out to Leonard-Witte. She will ask for more feedback as possible. Everson verified if we would go back to some sort of normality in the fall, we would resume the program as it originally runs if at all possible; Leonard-Witte agreed.

- Reality Rocks: Malinowski reported that there are no updates at this time. Teachers are working through this quarter by quarter.

BEP Programs / Activities:

- Mock Interviews: No requests have been made.
- Working Wednesdays: Jim Ertel reported that there is nothing new at this time. The website is available to help with this as appropriate.
- Job Fair - On hold.
- Senior Exit Interviews - This project is also on hold at this time.

Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:

- Everson asked Skicki regarding the business community staffing needs; Skicki stated that they just need people to apply, but not necessarily students. The Chamber website is a place to post these requests for help wanted. If you are a Chamber member, this is a benefit for you; reach out to Amy Skicki to learn more about this. Ertel and Everson will update the job board at the high school.
- Brandl thanked the board for the discussion about the GRIT recognitions. He felt that it would be great to track these kids after their GRIT presentations. He suggested some sort of lottery for the GRIT awardees where they could earn a scholarship of some type. Members liked this idea and discussed it briefly.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Everson; seconded by Kopecke. Motion carried at 8:35 a.m. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 7:30 a.m. on Zoom via the same link.

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