

**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**  
**February 17, 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, Patrick Malinowski, Jamie Racine, Pam Blattner, Krista Kaltenberg, Sarah Chaja-Clardy, Jill Conaway, Karen Bailey, David Thwing, Katy Johnson, Betsy Butler.

**Additional BEP Members:** Amy Skicki, Jennifer Mead

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

**Approval of 1-20-21 BEP Minutes:** Motion made by Karen Bailey; seconded by Nancy Everson to approve the January minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Everson shared that there are no new expenses. Our balances are doing well. Ray Koepcke confirms Nancy's report. Everson appreciates Koepcke's second set of eyes on the account.

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

**Unfinished/New Business:**

**Slate / Officers for Next Year:** Betsy Butler shared that we need a nomination for next year's vice president, and any possible interest in secretary and treasurer positions. The current vice president, Vince Brandl, will become president. If any board member is interested, please contact Malinowski, Brandl, Everson, or Butler. We also have a couple of board positions open. The slate will be presented in April with the vote in May.

**Committee Reports:**

- Adopt a Future: The process is underway for the selection of the next class of scholarship recipients. At the next board meeting we will discuss the number of scholarships for this year. The scholarship selection committee will receive the essays soon and selections will be made in early April.
- Adopt a School: Currently on hold.
- GRIT:
  - Elementary level - Kaltenberg shared the videos and GRIT information with teachers. Coulthart stated he had received great feedback from his teachers.
  - Middle school level - Vince Brandl continues to look for cool connections to be made between students and business leaders via Zoom. Johnson stated that there were no additional updates.
  - Upper middle school - Ryan Newquist was unable to attend today.

- o High school level - Everson stated that she is waiting on a go-ahead from Culver's on the next GRIT presentation. Other nominations may be coming in soon.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Chris Swenson shared that we have exceeded last year's dues collection; last year's collections were also cut off by COVID. We have no interest in pursuing a membership drive this year; we need to let everyone recover as they can. Swenson sends out email thank you's to every dues-paying member and Malinowski follows up as well.
- Reading Buddies: Stephanie Leonard-Witte reported that the March books are ready to go as is Seth Degnan's video of his book reading. We are looking for April and May readers. Pam Blattner volunteered to read April's book; Jennifer Mead will be the reader for May.
- Reality Rocks: Malinowski and Everson reported that neither has heard any needs expressed from the high school econ teachers at this time. There was some discussion of upcoming needs when we have two high schools. It does take about 85 volunteers to pull off Reality Rocks. We will discuss this in the future.

#### **BEP Programs / Activities:**

- Mock Interviews: No requests have been made.
- Working Wednesdays: Jim Ertel was unable to attend today.
- Job Fair - On hold.
- Senior Exit Interviews - This project is also on hold at this time.

#### **Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:**

- Brandl update the board on his snowshoes project funded by the Sun Prairie Education Foundation, where he received a grant for 32 pairs of snowshoes.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Carol Albright; seconded by Chris Swenson. Motion carried at 8:22 a.m. Motion carried.

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

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