

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
March 17, 2021 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)

BEP Board Members: Carol Albright, Shirley Statz, Craig Couthardt, Vince Brandl, Ray Koepcke, Nancy Everson, Sharlot Bogart, Stephanie Wallom, Chris Swenson, Seth Degnan, Stephanie Leonard-Witte, Patrick Malinowski, Jen Mead, Jamie Racine, Pam Blattner, Marv Hupp, Sarah Chaja-Clardy, Karen Bailey, David Thwing, Katy Johnson, Betsy Butler.

Additional BEP Members: n/a

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

Approval of 2-17-21 BEP Minutes: Motion made by Everson; seconded by Brandl to approve the February minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared that there were no expenses this past month. She did move the dues collected through Pay Pal into the checking account with Kopecke's help. Dues from Park Bank came in but have not been deposited yet. All of our balances are good. We will have the money to pay the bill for Reading Buddies when that bill is processed after the last books have been purchased. Swenson explained why we added PayPal as an option for payment for members. Blattner suggested we look into Venmo for this option instead as fees should be less. Swenson will look into that option. Koepcke verified all of Nancy's accounts and confirmed Nancy's report.

Calendar of Events: No new events at this time, except for possible GRIT presentations. Everson will start to plan for next year as if we will be back to normal meeting days, locations, etc. per Stephanie Leonard-Witte's suggestion. Brandl suggested thinking of having online access to meetings as an option to consider for next year. It was shared that Vince Brandl has been honored as a Herb Kohl Education Foundation Fellow this year; congratulations, Vince. It was also shared that Ray Koepcke has taken a new position within Park Bank although he will continue his work with the BEP; congratulations, Ray!

Unfinished/New Business:

Slate / Officers for Next Year: Betsy Butler shared that the empty board positions for businesses have been filled with the selections of Jen Mead from Prairie Kids Club and Amy Skicki from the Sun Prairie Chamber of Commerce. Welcome! Also Butler and Everson shared that we have a proposed new slate that will be presented to the board at the April meeting and then voted on at the May meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Adopt a Future: The process is underway with essay evaluations of 13 finalists. The scholarship selection committee will receive the essays soon and selections will be made in early April. Malinowski made the motion to select 3 scholarship winners again this year if the selection committee finds that there are 3 recipients deemed worthy. It was seconded by Albright. The motion carried.
- Adopt a School: Currently on hold.
- GRIT:
 - Elementary level - Kaltenberg absent today. Nothing new to report.
 - Middle school level - Vince Brandl shared that Patrick Marsh Middle School is holding a College/Career Month during the month of May. Brandl will forward the information to Butler to share with our members and forward to the Chamber.
 - Upper middle school - Ryan Newquist was unable to attend today. Nothing new to report.
 - High school level - Everson worked with Skicki to put an article in the Chamber newsletter regarding the program. We have not had any new nominees. There has been no word from Culver's as to their last request.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Covered earlier.
- Reading Buddies: Stephanie Leonard-Witte reported that the feedback of what has been done so far has been positive. The book-reading recording for April has been made already by Jen Mead, and Pam Blattner will be completing the May video. Adult Transition Program students (ages 18-21) have been working on the labels, counting, and packaging of the books for their delivery to each school. Thank you to them and their teachers for this help! Leonard-Witte and Craig Coulthart will put together a survey regarding teacher preferences for next year after the suggestion of Sharlot Bogart to offer the option for ordering to be done for the teachers. Teachers will be asked as to what each prefers. As a way to ease stress of teachers and kick-start the program, a suggestion was made for all teachers to receive the same September books and options kick in after that point.
- Reality Rocks: Malinowski reported that there was nothing new at this time. Everson shared that smaller schools in Dane County who had hoped to do a virtual reality rocks of sorts have not been able to do so. Blattner shared that the Bank of Sun Prairie has been looking at an app that may be an electronic platform from which to do some work in this area. Malinowski shared that Summit Credit Union had looked at one, but no discussion pieces were put in place with that program. Everson is hoping to be back in person next year; she suggested maybe piloting the app somewhere where appropriate to do so. Student and teacher input will be obtained on this.

BEP Programs / Activities:

- Mock Interviews: No requests have been made.
- Working Wednesdays: Jim Ertel was unable to attend today. Everson has been working with Student Services at the high school to post job openings not only on a bulletin board at the high school but link these openings with a page within the student services website link.

- Job Fair - On hold.
- Senior Exit Interviews - This project is also on hold at this time. Everson did share that there is some talk among administrators about the benefit of an exit interview over a survey; this may be in the works for next year.

Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:

- Nothing added here today.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Bogart; seconded by Brandl. Motion carried at 8:19 a.m. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 7:30 a.m. on Zoom via the same link.

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