

**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**

**April 21, 2021 – Minutes (taken by Vince Brandl)**

**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. **Additional BEP Members:** n/a

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 am by Patrick Malinowski on Zoom.

**Approval of 3-17-21 BEP Minutes:** Motion made by Albright; seconded by Everson to approve

**Student Feature:** Nancy Everson discussed the need for more kids involved within the BEP. Updates on sports coming back as well as updates on kids coming back into building. Carol asked each student candidate on the school board to be on BEP instead. All 6 kids were interested in being on the BEP. Nancy will contact Chandu from DSC to get their names and contact info. All had applications they submitted to the Board. Will the BEP have an application process or essay to get kids to be representatives on the BEP in the future?

**Treasurer's Report:** Everson reported Chris Swenson received \$250 in dues from Park Bank. Ray confirmed Nancy's report on no other activity in the account. On a good path for all three. Only bill is \$7000+ for Reading Buddies. Book shelves on hold until next year. Hopefully lumber prices will drop. Calendar of Events: Everyone wants to meet in person. We are going to start face-to-face meetings. Who would like to host a meeting? Would Summit like to host the first meeting? Do we head back to Thursdays? 3rd Thursday of the month? Nancy will start reaching out to various companies to begin a calendar. End result: Patrick Reserved Summit as the first meeting meeting space for next school year's first meeting.

**Calendar of Events:** Nothing to note.

### **Unfinished/New Business:**

**Slate:** Proposed slate is Vince as President, Pam as Vice President, Betsy as Secretary, and Nancy as treasurer. Vote is at the May meeting. Do we mentor another person to get them ready for future years...like treasurer (or secretary)?

### **Other:**

Can David Thwing still continue to be on BEP, while the store still stays in Columbus. YES is the unanimous answer. Amy Skicki is leaving---she is looking for another member from the chamber to replace her. They voted in a business teacher to the chamber's board. Getting students to have internships through the chamber into the future. Amy will look for her replacement.

Nancy took the first group to take a tour of the new school. Teacher asked for a speaker on project management. Luke Kieffer (former SP student) from Findorff did the Zoom. Same teacher has two more requests: May 14: How do managers communicate so software/hardware so the entire organization hears their messages? May 27th: How do you give employees feedback? How do they create a positive environment while giving negative feedback to employees? Jennifer Mead volunteered to speak on HR consulting for small and medium businesses. Amy will speak on the topic of group presentations and also can help with the communications question.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Adopt a Future: The committee reviewed all the essays. They have picked 3 out of all the wonderful essays. Nancy also met with a Nationwide scholarship committee and found it interesting in little details that took kids out of the running. She stressed the importance of fine details in filling out applications to be noted for kids of all ages.
- Adopt a School: Currently on hold.
- GRIT:
  - Elementary level - Nothing new. Any recommendations on new teachers? Jamie reported for the remainder of the year no volunteers are coming into the school. They are replacing school board member with a full time district employee to the chamber board. Talked about the process moving forward. Carol felt very unwelcome being on the Chamber team. Discussion ensued.

Business Academy and Agriculture Academy sounds positive as the overview shared by Nancy: All assigned to different business projects - example: local farmers. Goal: Collaborative work with students helping solve real-world business issues.

- Middle school level - Update from Vince, discussion on a system across all levels where teachers who want to connect to businesses have an easy process to get connected to positive collaboration.
- Upper middle school - Ryan Newquist - no report.
- High school level - Everson - no notes.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: No notes.
- Reading Buddies: Report from Nancy on combination of teachers choosing vs. everything lined up for them. In the future, will we continue to offer a combination of options for teachers within the reading buddy program?
- Reality Rocks: Everson reported that the Fieldhouse Reserved for December 1st and April 27th next school year.

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

- Mock Interviews: No requests all year. Chamber did a Hospitality Job Fair with 10 employers--- and not one person showed up. Discussion on employee shortage followed. David could not get enough people within his business. 30 jobs posted right

now by Jennifer, but not enough workers. Discussion ensued of the background of waves of shortages of workers, and experienced workers, along with pay discrepancies within companies to recruit new workers.

- Working Wednesdays: No notes.
- Job Fair - On hold.
- Senior Exit Interviews - This project is also on hold at this time.

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

- Nancy Updates: Scholarship night back on at the high school. Adopt-a-Future may be presenting. Prom will be outside on the new SP football field with a movie night. Waunakee is similar with slots of time to get pictures and movies. One of the kids David recommended for the GRIT award, Dashle, did a great job with helping a person out with raking her lawn while the adult is still recovering from cancer. Great story to end the meeting on:)

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by someone (not in notes); seconded by another person (not in notes). Motion carried.

**Next meeting:** Our next board meeting is Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 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.*