

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
August 19, 2021 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)

BEP Board Members: Carol Albright, Vince Brandl, Ray Koepcke, Nancy Everson, Sharlot Bogart, Seth Degnan, Patrick Malinowski, Jen Mead, Pam Blattner, Marv Hupp, Karen Bailey, David Thwing, Dianne Metz, Betsy Butler. **Additional BEP Members:** n/a

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:35 am by Vince Brandl at Summit Credit Union.

Business Feature: Patrick Malinowski of Summit Credit Union welcomed everyone to Summit and shared logistics for the meeting. He also shared how they have restructured some because of covid by adding video-tellers and PTM (personal teller machines). They also have some positions working from home still.

Approval of 8-19-21 BEP Minutes: Motion made by Malinowski; seconded by Koepcke to approve the May minutes. Motion carried.

Guests: Vince Brandl discussed the need for recruiting new businesses.

Student Feature: Everson is looking to recruit both a junior and a senior to attend our meetings.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared that we are financially solvent, even through the past year as expenses were obviously down; we still had members you paid dues. Balances and investments are strong. Money is there if we want to go forward with any new programs.

The question of dues this year was raised. Mead suggested a first year discount; Bogart said have them pay dues and get them involved right away while they really want to be involved. Mead agreed with Degnan that businesses budget for dues for various groups. General consensus was to continue the business-size graduated dues scale as we have done in the past.

Calendar of Events: No events have been scheduled as of yet, but that will be coming soon as we get programs up and running. Everson will look for locations for our meetings; September will be at Kicks Unlimited. PPA will be interested in hosting and Hupp will check on that. Other locations from the past were suggested. We also discussed using district buildings and alternating like we used to do. This may not be an option until covid calms down more.

Unfinished/New Business: Bylaws and board members discussion: Marv Hupp and Jen Mead volunteered to work with Butler on the Bylaws Committee for recommendations for possible changes in anticipation of next year.

Instructional Framework Committee: Pam Blattner and Sharlot Bogart were interested in the Instructional Framework Committee BEP BOard Rep position. We also discussed our need to diversify on the board.

Adopt a Class Renewal Project Idea: Nancy Everson shared the past history of the program where we had 82 classrooms paired with area businesses. Everson managed it and these partnerships were solid for a very long time. Many suggestions of possible partnerships were shared (i.e. Diesel Injection with auto classes). Discussion moved to that thi may not be the time as businesses are hard up for help and finding staffing who could volunteer may be difficult. Blattner shared that this may be a way to get back in the schools. Koepcke suggested reaching out to SCOs. Bogart shared her example of her partnership in the past. Time commitment had been once a quarter. Again, all agreed this may not be the time. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- Adopt a Future: Everson explained the program to new members. One student has already claimed her scholarship from this year. Sponsors last year were the BEP At Large; the scholarships will again be sponsored by the BEP At Large this year. Next year we will look to find individual businesses again to sponsor.
- Adopt a School: In the past, we had pairings with Woodman's (Royal Oaks) and QBE (Meadow View). Banners were in the building and volunteers came to the building. Again, many agreed that now may not be the time with staffing shortages and visitor concerns in buildings. Everson suggested we put this on hold for now. Thwing and Koepcke suggested that we focus on the programs that are more adaptable to our current situation.
- GRIT:
 - Elementary level - not discussed today although Everson explained what had been done in the past.
 - Middle school level - Everson shared that the middle schools have shifted the focus over time.
 - Upper middle school - Everson explained that teachers nominated students in the past; this program has collapsed at this level without an active educator involved here.
 - High school level - Everson stated that the high school program has remained strong, even during covid times.
 - Thwing mentioned missing the Improved GPA program and the impact it had. Educators suggested we may have new interest in something like this with new principals at CHUMS, PPA, and the high school.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Discussion of Ideas: We need to update our Facebook site. Brandl wants business logos on his wall at school. Albright asked if we coordinate with the Chamber; Everson said we do as she has a position on their board. More on this later.

- Reading Buddies: Everson explained what we did with this program last year. We will make this work even better this year. Coulthard and Leonard-Witte have helped to set up ordering and coordination with staff. Everson will begin the process of matching buddies. Blattner suggested bringing in the public library to support our program.
- Reality Rocks: The December and April dates are set for this program. Everson will send the dates out. Discussion about doing this remotely if need be yielded the agreement that it is too difficult to do well online. Blattner said that The Bank of Sun Prairie is testing a portion of an app in an after school program.

BEP Programs / Activities:

- Mock Interviews: Everson has been approached by a teacher making requests already; more to follow on this.
- Working Wednesdays: Jim Ertel is unable to be here today. It was suggested that maybe we start this digitally.
- Job Fair - Tabled for now.
- Senior Exit Interviews - Tabled for now.

Other Items of Interest for the BEP Board:

- Nothing added here today.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Albright; seconded by Everson. Motion carried at 9:03 a.m. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Thursday, September 16, 2021, 7:30 a.m. at Kicks Unlimited in Sun Prairie.

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