

**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**  
**September 16, 2021 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)**

**BEP Board Members:** Carol Albright, Vince Brandl, Ray Koepcke, Nancy Everson, Sharlot Bogart, Seth Degnan, Patrick Malinowski, Pam Blattner, Marv Hupp, Jamie Racine, Stephanie Leonard-Witte, Sarah Chaja-Clardy, Karen Bailey, David Thwing, Dianne Metz, Chris Swenson, Jim Ertel, Kelsey Aleckson, Prisha Poddar, Martin Azocar Leon, Betsy Butler. **Additional BEP Members:** n/a

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 am by Vince Brandl at Kicks Unlimited.

**Business Feature:** Seth Degnan shared information about his business, Kicks Unlimited. Locations in Sun Prairie, Stoughton, and Fitchburg. Founded in 2002, and opened in Sun Prairie in 2004. He's been at this location for ten years. Martial arts program with an after-school pick-up program as well. Last year they operated a learning day camp. He has students ages 4-75, open Monday through Thursday until 8:30 p.m. and also Saturday mornings.

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

**Introduction of Members:** Vince Brandl asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**Student Feature:** Our new student reps, Martin Azocar Leon and Prisha Poddar, shared information about themselves and what was currently happening at the high school with clubs starting up. We are so excited to have them with us!

**Treasurer's Report:** Nancy Everson had emailed the balances to the board prior to the meeting. There was no income for the month reported and the only expense was \$500 for an Adopt-a-Future scholarship. Ray Koepcke confirmed the report as accurate.

**Calendar of Events:** PPA will host for October. Students will make a presentation at 8:00 a.m. with Nicole doing an intro at that time. In November, we will be at Royle Printing, and Shirley Statz will host in December at her home. Sacred Hearts is checking on the possibility of hosting the February meeting.

**Flagship Programs for this year :** Brandl asked that we break into two groups to focus on work for our two flagship programs Reading Buddies and Reality Rocks.

Reading Buddies - Everson reported that she is matching teachers with business members and that the budget for the program is in good shape. Books have been ordered for the first month and things should be up and running soon.

Reality Rocks - Report from the subgroup: The event will be held in person this year, but spread out more in the field house and possibly spread out throughout the day. Volunteers will need to be prepped in COVID procedures and protocols. They requested not to do check writing and instead use "cards" in order to keep things moving better.

### **Other Business:**

Instructional Framework Committee: Stephanie Leonard-Witte will reach out to Pam Blattner and Sharlot Bogart who were interested in the Instructional Framework Committee BEP Board Rep position. More will be shared on this later.

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). Again, all agreed this may not be the time.

### **Committee Reports:**

- Adopt a Future: Nothing new at this time
- Adopt a School: Nothing new at this time
- GRIT:
  - High school level - Ertel shared information about the program. We will continue this program but possibly rebrand it.
  - Elementary/MS/UMS - Brandl feels like these areas need to be rebranded and redefined. Vince would like to form a committee to work on this - see him after the meeting.
- Marketing/Membership/PR: Swenson asked for input on the color of the clings for this year. He'd like to update the kits. Blattner and Butler will work on this. The directory is in the process of being updated.

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

- Mock Interviews: Everson has received questions about help for this in October. Emails will be coming out requesting help.
- Working Wednesdays: Jim Ertel explained the program. It is up and running with businesses coming in with 3-4 students filling out applications yesterday.
- Job Fair - Everson has had businesses requesting help finding employees. It was discussed that spring would be the best time to hold this event. Proddar agreed.
- Senior Exit Interviews - The Teaching, Learning and Equity Team interviewed students in the past during interviews at the high school, asking 3 big questions. Azocar Leon suggested that maybe these interviews be scheduled during Cardinal 30 times.

**Budget Item:** What should we charge businesses for the program? Motion made by Butler for the BEP to cover the costs of the Reading Buddies program this year. Motion seconded by Hupp. Motion carried.

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

- Website - Marv Hupp asked for members to send him updates for the website. He has access to the site and can post items.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Blattner; seconded by Everson. Motion carried at 9:00 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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