

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
December 13, 2022 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)

BEP Board Members: Jen Ploeger, Craig Coulthart, Chris Swenson, Patrick Malinowski, Pam Blattner, David Thwing, Carol Albright, Katie Mould, Tiffany Yapp, Lauri Isaacson, Sharlot Bogart, Christi Winchel, Shirley Statz, Betsy Butler, Seth Degnan, Prisha Poddar, Steven Case, Karen Bailey, Nancy Everson, Sarah Chaja-Clardy, Renee Coleman, LaTonia Hughes, Stephanie Leonard-Witte. **Additional BEP Members/Guests:** Joe Statz, Dan, McIlroy

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:39 a.m. by Pam Blattner at the home of Shirley Statz.

Host Business Feature: Thanks to Shirley Statz and Joe Statz (Statz Bros.) for hosting this morning's meeting. Joe Statz gave us an update on the business this year: 4700 cows being milked, 9000 acres of land which produces their own feed, 20 calves born every day, 2 digesters are running which produce methane that is converted into natural gas for the town of Sun Prairie. Costs are up but things are going well.

Approval of November 2022 BEP Minutes: Motion made to approve by Winchel; seconded by Bogart. Motion carried.

Introduction of Board Members: There was no need for introductions today.

Introduction of Guests: Dan McIlroy (ProAdSpec, Inc.) was introduced to those members who have not met him before.

Student Feature: Student Prisha Poddar shared that FBLA went to a conference in Eau Claire and DECA attended a workshop in Milwaukee. Winter sports have started, and the East vs West high school basketball game is tonight. The semester ends shortly after break so students are focusing on finishing up strong. Student Steven Case reported that he is part of the swim team at East and Environmental Club. The club is holding their first fundraiser this year by selling pudding dirt cups. Seniors are getting ready to send their transcripts to potential colleges. Case plans to study atmospheric and oceanic sciences and to go where the scholarships are for his college choice, and he may participate in ROTC if he goes to California. Poddar has applied to 8 different schools and has been accepted at Whitewater and Minnesota so far. She will study finance or accounting and will also go where there are scholarship monies.

Calendar of Events/New Business: Report--All upcoming board meetings for the year have locations set.

Feedback from Goals for BEP 2022-23 and Annual Meeting: Blattner stated that these will be revisited at upcoming meetings where a formal game plan will be created.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared that Ray Koepcke had an accident and has dislocated or broken his knee. The board wishes him a speedy recovery. Everson reported that financial activity looks fine with money coming in from dues.

Annual Award Recognitions: Blattner made the following presentation: Outstanding Board Member (Patrick Malinowski of Summit Credit Union).

Activity Reports:

Reality Rocks: Report - We are all set to go and very excited for Reality Rocks tomorrow. Thank you to all of those who will be helping out! Discussion-- Everson shared that the schools' start time change has impacted businesses' abilities to fully attend Reality Rocks. She's hoping the timing will work out somehow. It was suggested to give students a time limit. There will be 2 buses coming from West. Members discussed moving investments up front instead of at the end, the general flow of the event, what the final outcomes and "aha" moments kids should have, and what happens after the simulation.

Reading Buddies: Report--*The December books were shipped to first grade sites on November 30, 2022. The books this month are a series of 'I Can Read' books which are written at a level that many first grade students can read on their own before the end of first grade. Prior to COVID, the Book Buddies program included a Birthday Book for each first grade student in addition to the monthly read aloud books. We have not provided a Birthday Book over the past three years. A decision needs to be made for the 2023-24 school year whether we should reinstate the Birthday Book or not. This would require additional funds of approximately \$2.50 per student or \$1,700. The board discussed this and decided against continuing this aspect.*

BEP Student Employee Excellence Award: Report--There are now 3 recognitions to be scheduled. Everson will send out emails when those are confirmed.

Working Wednesdays: Report--Working Wednesdays during lunch times have been organized and set up at both East and West high schools. Businesses are coming in. Coleman recommended coming up with a way to better advertise to students. Ploeger suggested that we consider offering morning opportunities for students to meet with businesses as the doors open at 8:05 a.m. There is a good 30 minute window where students could meet businesses. This would be something to coordinate with the college and career readiness coordinators at each high school, Craig and Laura.

Mock Interviews: Joel Coyne has reached out himself to previous helpers and has 13 volunteers to help with his December mock interviews.

Job Fair: This is in the works with the Chamber. More information will follow.

Senior Exit Interviews: Report--Albright, Everson, Chaja-Clardy and Leonard-Witte met on December 9 to discuss this topic. They looked at what other schools are doing and what and why we wanted from this experience. The district has been doing "Student Voice Interviews," asking students what is going well and what needs improvement. At our February meeting, Leonard-Witte and Chaja-Clardy will present the data from last year's findings. The district is really already doing this work, although the BEP may be asked to come in and help if departments could use the support.

Committee Reports:

Marketing/Membership/PR: Report--We have brought in \$3,950 in dues so far. Thank You emails sent as dues come in. Swenson stated that he feels the BEP needs a plan for marketing and membership growth. Several good ideas were shared. We need to look at how we approach people, who we approach, etc. A Marketing & Membership Committee has been formed to create a plan to bring to the board: Swenson, Isaacson, Yapp, and Butler. Butler will help coordinate the work on this committee with the work on the Program Evaluation Committee (formerly the GRIT Committee)

Program Evaluation Committee: Report--You may access the notes from the committee [HERE](#). The committee will meet on December 15, 2022 to begin programming discussions. Three site educators will join us for our meeting.

New Program Committee: Nothing new at this time.

Bylaws Committee: Nothing new at this time.

Finance Committee: Nothing new at this time.

Adopt-a-Future Committee: Here is the [essay evaluation rubric](#) that our committee uses to select the winners. Narrowing down to the top 12+ is another process within the AVID teachers ([rubric for them](#)). Current timeline is mid-year check-in's done (January 15); Scholarship info presented to students (February 1); Applications due (March 1); Finalists sent to Adopt-a-Future Committee (March 20) and selected by March 30; Honoree Breakfast held in mid-April. Three (3) scholarships will be given out this year, one funded by Teddy's Place, another by the retired teacher group The Phillies, and possibly another one sponsored by Kim Erb (Butler will check on this). Bogart and Winchel volunteered to help Butler plan the first ever Adopt-a-Future breakfast, which will be in late March or early April. Butler will contact the school ProStart teachers to see if we can hold the event at one of the schools.

Other Items of Importance: Blattner thanked Shirley Statz again for a wonderful, festive start to our days

Appreciations and Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Everson, seconded by Bogart. Motion carried at 8:53 am.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 7:30 a.m. at Eastside Elementary School.

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