

Vision: *Preparing and supporting today's students for tomorrow's workforce.*
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SUN PRAIRIE BUSINESS AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
September 13, 2022 – Minutes (taken by Betsy Butler)

BEP Board Members: Prisha Poddar, David Thwing, Craig Coulthart, Stephanie Leonard-Witte, Carol Albright, Kelsey Aleckson, Chris Swenson, Sarah Chaja-Clardy, Karen Bailey, Lauri Isaacson, Jen Ploeger, Shirley Statz, Patrick Malinowski, Ray Koepcke, Pam Blattner, Christina Williams, Nancy Everson, Renee Coleman, Betsy Butler. **Additional BEP Members/Guests:** Katrina Collins

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m. by Pam Blattner at the Bank of Sun Prairie.

Approval of August 2022 BEP Minutes: Motion made to approve by Swenson; seconded by Kopecke. Motion carried.

Host Business Feature: Thanks to Pam Blattner and the Bank of Sun Prairie for hosting this morning's meeting. The Bank of Sun Prairie has been around for 100 years and now has 5 branches, with its newest location being in Sun Prairie West High School with a focus on financial literacy skills. The Bank of Sun Prairie has a strong philosophy of volunteerism in the community, with 20-25 people serving on various boards. It is an expectation to volunteer in the community.

Introduction of Guests: All board members introduced themselves as we had several new members present today.

Student Feature: Student Prisha Poddar (West High School rep) shared that the West High School facility is beautiful and that students are enjoying the various types of seating and "cool chairs" available. She has seen a lot of collaboration and classrooms moving about the building to best utilize the space opportunities. Extra-curricular clubs are now starting, FBLA has its chapter up and running, DECA is united between the two high schools. The big football game is coming up this Friday between SP East and SP West; many of the sports are currently playing each other or just have. Students are all adjusting to the new normal and doing well.

Calendar of Events: Upcoming board meetings all have locations except for the May meeting. October - WPPI Energy (Annual Meeting Breakfast); November - Compeer Financial; December - Home of Shirley Statz; January - Eastside Elementary School; February - Sun Prairie West High School; March - Sun Prairie East High School; April - Prairie Phoenix Academy.

Goal Setting Discussion: Members were asked to reflect on their overall goals for the BEP. Swenson asked what businesses and school reps need. Coulthart suggested that a short listing of what we currently do go out to teachers. Albright suggested a formal presentation be made to the board as to what the BEP is currently and planning to do. Leonard-Witte mentioned the grade 6-12 focus on Academic and Career Planning (ACP) is an avenue to explore. She also shared that the current BEP programming group re-evaluating the GRIT program is looking at using the crosswalk of the standards for Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) and the Wisconsin Employability standards.

Ploeger shared that it is difficult to respond as the BEP is new to many and that with all the recent changes, teachers do not know what they need yet. Malinowski mentioned in the past that programs have previously come from teachers and now their workload is even greater. Aleckson mentioned that the ACP & AVID work in the 30 minute SP 30 time slot would be a great spot for some coordination as every student has this. Brandl's past tours of businesses taken by middle school students was mentioned as another area of which to work on. Blattner shared that her goal is to focus us on particular goals and put a plan of action into place this year. She'd like to see cohesive groups working together on projects during our meetings. Blattner/Coleman suggested an interactive agenda where members are responsible for updating reports so time is not spent in meetings on static information. Members will be irresponsible for updating this by the week before the meeting so Butler can send out the agenda.

Christina Willams from the SP Chamber of Commerce shared that an event called Sunrise Sun Prairie will be starting next week (monthly on every third Tuesday) at the Hilton Garden Inn, 7:30 am registration/8 am start with 1-hour networking time, completing by 9 am. There will be a monthly sponsor presentation and networking time. This would be a great opportunity to share information with businesses about the partnership. Everson and Butler will attend.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Everson shared the following information: General account balance \$28,233.57; Endowment Fund \$53,906.99; Adopt-a-Future Scholarship fund \$30,004.19. Income brought in this month is \$500 from the Conti-Tech renewal payment; expenses were as follows: Window clings purchase \$419.36; SPASD printing charges \$75.77; \$500 claimed for a Adopt-a-Future scholarship. Investments are strong and the Paypal option for dues payment is up and working. Checkbook balance is \$3503.79. Recent expense was a \$50 gift card last month. Investments stand solid. \$56,500 balance in the Endowment; \$31,200 in Adopt-a-Future scholarships; \$29,000 in the general fund.

Goal Challenge from Blattner: President Pam Blattner asked members to meet in small groups and share their thoughts on goals for the year.

Very brief summaries of small group meetings:

Group 1: Whatever we do, we should do as group (district-wide at each level); we should reflect the changes we are seeing in businesses and schools; we need to create a really good base of what we do well; we need to revisit our mission & vision; we need to figure out how to bring educators into the conversation; we need to educate people about us; we need to examine how we are united and is at our core.

Group 2: We need to be more focused - need simpler structure to follow-through better; want good ideas that actually happen and create the plan to do so; revamp how we use our board time; utilize tech to help with limitations (i.e. Zoom-in guest speakers, Zoom-in teachers); reach out and communicate better with businesses and community groups; get businesses more into the upper levels (gr. 6-12) where natural links can happen; set up lessons for use in the SP 30 time that tie in with financial literacy, ACP & SEL/Workability goals.

Group 3: Update the website and make it relevant; ask Adam Mumm to help us update our website in October/November; do more with marketing - get volunteer shirts & connect with faculty members; recruit business members - look at the job fair and the list of businesses there; Lunch & Learn; utilize ACP more and SP30 times; engage with parents more.

Committee Reports:

Marketing/Membership/PR: Swenson reported that Butler has updated the invoice materials and invoices will go out in early October.

GRIT-Program Evaluation Committee: The committee has been meeting over the summer and is aligning the Social-Emotional Learning district rubric with the Wisconsin Employability standards. Their plan is to bring more shareholders on board, develop program ideas and a plan and bring that back to the board later in the first semester with the hopes of piloting aspects of the plan in the second semester.

New Program Committee: Nothing new at this time.

Bylaws Committee: Nothing new at this time.

Finance Committee: Nothing new at this time.

Activity Reports:

Reality Rocks: Malinowski and Everson shared the dates for this year: December 14 at SP East; April 19 at SP West. Each event will host approximately 300 students. Reminder - it has been suggested several times that page numbers be added to the student packet. Everson is working on the transportation issue of moving approximately 150 students from one building to the other.

Reading Buddies: Coulthardt and Leonard-Witte are obtaining information from teachers. Everson is setting up business & classroom pairings. More to report next month.

BEP Student Employee Excellence Award: Butler shared that there is one award to present at Kicks Unlimited; the group will wait until Seth Degnan is back from his trip.

Adopt a Future - Butler and Everson will coordinate with the new head of the district's AVID program.

Working Wednesdays: Nothing at this time. The new principals will coordinate this program.

Mock Interviews: Nothing at this time. New business teachers getting up to speed.

Job Fair - The Student Job Fair was a huge success and planning will begin to make this happen again.

Senior Exit Interviews - This will be revisited; Chaja-Clardy will share at a later date.

Other Items of Importance: Albright shared that information will be forthcoming about the November school referendum (she brought posters to share). The request is being made to maintain student class sizes, student programming, equity work and programming, and payroll.

Our annual meeting will be October 11th at WPPI Energy. Butler will work on the invitation, program, presentation, and coordinate with our host, Lauri Isaacson at WPPI Energy. This meeting will start at 7 am.

Appreciations and Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Leonard-Witte seconded by Albright. Motion carried at 8:59 am.

Next meeting: Our next board meeting is Tuesday, October 11, 2021, 7:00 a.m. at WPPI Energy.

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