



FAYETTE BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Minutes for January 9, 2018 @ Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus

In attendance: Regina Asbury, Brenda Caromano, Tom Caruso, Shawn Clemmer, Debbie Cohen, Jacquelyn Core, Barb Crofcheck, Melissa DePaul, Jennifer Deichert, Judy DeWitt, Kathy Dowling, Trudie Harvey, Tonya Pierce Heider, Bill Henderson, Kathi Hull, Jason Hutchinson, Marlene Kolosky, Tyler Kurosky, Melissa Loy, Rebecca Maddas, Muriel Nuttall, Brent Robinson, Corie Sechrist, Jesse Sprajcar, Sean Sypolt, Jesse Wallace, Janet Ward, Roxanne Weekley, Torrie Winseck, Kelli Winwood

An introduction on each partner entity was given by Muriel Nuttall and Janet Ward, followed by a roundtable introduction from all present.

Guest speaker for the day was Tom Caruso of Ameriprise, who shared several books and pamphlets to all in attendance, and offered to expound on this information (including the Dream Book, info on 529 plans, and more), by providing speakers to schools and other organizations.

DISTRICT UPDATES

Albert Gallatin – Jason Hutchinson stated that AG are continuing with their one-to-one Chrome books for 9th & 10th grade students, and will eventually go down to 7th & 8th grade students. In addition, they've had administrative changes which include a new superintendent.

Brownsville – Shawn Clemmer shared that they've been touring various schools' media centers.

Connellsville – Torie Winseck stated that Connellsville also has had some administrative changes including an interim superintendent and several new school board members. In addition, Chrome books have been given to the students on a one-to-one basis, although there continues to be concerns at the elementary level with students "chatting" to people from out of state through their computers.

Frazier - reported that are currently in the middle of Keystone Exams.

Laurel Highlands – Jesse Wallace stated that they too have embarked on the one-to-one program, with 1,000 laptops given to students. In addition, the high school is partnering with Carnegie Mellon with the Mini Mighty Mustang Program, and are also partnering with Penn State Extension to bring in Google for a virtual reality project to begin in February. LH has also been named to the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll.

Uniontown – Brenda Caroma reported that Uniontown has been named to the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll. In addition, they are currently in the middle of Keystone Exams.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Brent Robinson was able to provide the group with a projected update from Chevron for the next 4-5 years in Fayette County, since they've downsized in the area. They are currently beginning to build less pads with a longer lateral (close to 8,000-9,000 ft.) in Luzerne County. In addition, they've begun building centralized water facilities to address the concerns of so many trucks on the road, and are building one in Luzerne County, whereby they'll be piping in water from the river. They'll be offering tours again to area legislators.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Fluid Power Challenge – Twenty-nine teams from school districts in Fayette, Greene, Westmoreland, and Armstrong participated in the event, held in the Auxiliary Gym at Penn State Fayette. The event has quickly outgrown the size of the Auxiliary Gym, and the hope is to move into the main gym on campus for the next school year. Dates for the event are: Workshop Day, September 27th; Challenge Day, November 15th.

Business Pitch Competition – The program will be coordinated by Kathi Hull. Slight changes this year include that it will no longer be held in conjunction with the USCAA – the date is tentatively scheduled for March 15th. We are hoping to include an Entrepreneurship is Elementary piece to this project as well.

Parent Symposium – This project is currently on hold, pending staffing issues [the Chamber is down staff members, and are currently seeking a Business Development and Marketing person.]

WIB UPDATES

Janet explained that funds received through the Department of Labor to fund FBEP and other projects will conclude in June 2018. These projects include Fluid Power, the Leadership Academy, and summer camps. Janet is not sure if these funds will be available again, as they are not automatic. In the first and second quarters, WIB has impacted over 340 youth through this funding.

TANA funding is still available for families who fall into the 235% of poverty categories, for those ages 16-24. The Experience Works program currently offers year-round job opportunities at \$9.00/hour. The Chamber's staff member Morgan Hunchuck came from this program, and is currently working part-time for the Chamber while attending LBI for accounting.

They will continue to partner with organizations such as the YMCA, after school programs with the Connellsville CTC and Fayette County CTI, and dual enrollment through Westmoreland County Community College.

MEMBER PARTICIPATION – YOUTH ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

In an effort to make sure that FBEP was indeed helping to “fill in the gaps” where necessary, those in attendance were asked to form groups and take 10 minutes to answer the following questions. Those responses will follow each question below.

- **Who do I/we know that fits these demographics? Where can we find these people?**
 - 1/Parents of current and previous students
 - 2/ The “middle” students – those that aren't overachievers or at poverty-level
 - 3/Use Head Start as a model and capacity to reach parents
 - 4/Drop-out listings
 - 5/Home Schools
 - 6/Alternative Schools
 - 7/Cyber Schools
 - 8/Private Schools
 - 9/Church youth groups

- **What other partners should be included in FBEP?**
 - 1/Public Assistance

2/Youth
3/Employers
4/CYS
5/More guidance counselors
6/OVR
7/Goodwill
8/Private Schools
9/Pregnancy Centers
10/More Diversity
11/More 4 yr. universities
12/Counseling Agencies

- **What can be done to help these folks connect to career pathways, training and employers?**

1/People need to be at Open Houses, Conferences, concerts, plays, Kindergarten registrations, musicals, and sporting events
2/Provide parents with an FBEP newsletter distributed to students through the schools
3/Have a community day w/free entertainment and food, then have agency vendors
4/Mix socio-economic statuses
5/Better awareness of opportunities

- **What role should FBEP play in this process?**

1/Coordinate and fund these events and the newsletter
2/Work ethic and behavior issues – programming for Millennial problem
3/Focus on “middle” students (not gifted)

Muriel also asked the schools if there was a mechanism that could be put into place through the schools’ 339 plans, to “track” the students once they’ve graduated, in an effort to then have a designated organization “follow up” with these students.

PARTNER PROJECTS

- Penn State Extension’s is currently offering many programs including: The Science of Ag Challenge, with four teams in place who will compete regionally on April 14th at Bayer in Pittsburgh, and then June 7-9 at State College [scholarship money is attached to this project, and mentors are needed]; Augmented Reality through Google [LH and Connellsville already on board and is open to ALL school districts]; 4H Birds and Bunnies Open House event February 7th; Strengthening Families program [partnership with YMCA, beginning January 22nd for ages 10-14]; and Clover Bud for ages 5-7, currently being held at 3rd Presbyterian Church in Uniontown. More information is available on their website.
- Uniontown Area YMCA is partnering with WIB for their Top 5 program, which targets those ages 16-24. Other partnerships include those with the Extension office and East End United Community Center.
- Rebecca Maddas stated that California University will be holding an Education Conference and is in need of administrators and others to sit on several panel discussions throughout the event, scheduled for March 26th.
- WCCC will hold their Spring Open House event on Valentine’s Day, February 14th.

- Marlene Kolosky of Fayette County Community Action reported that the Laurel Highlands High School will open their school to 400 students this summer, who will stay there while Work Camps, whereby they will assist the elderly, low income, and disabled homeowners within a three mile radius of Laurel Highlands High School.
- Private Industry Council will hold a youth program based on baseball stats, with professional and retired professional baseball players participating. The program will be for students in grades 4-8.
- Penn State Fayette is currently offering real estate, EMS, and OSHA related programs. In addition, they offered collaborations with anyone wishing to hold youth camps.
- The USCAA will be held in late February through early March on Penn State Fayette campus. While the Business Pitch competition will no longer coincide with the event, there will be a career awareness day for student athletes on February 28th (snow date, March 1st).