

Workforce Development March 17th 2010

PRESENT: Paula Frings, Vickie Herman, Jane Bymark, Jessica Knutson, Bobbie Kleffman, Jaci David, Margie Ritter, Megan Christianson, Mary Kosak

STAFF: Kerry Larsen & Bud Stone

Jane Bymark called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

FEB. 2010 MINUTES :

Margie Ritter made a motion to approve the Feb. 2010 Minutes; Bobbi Kleffman seconded; motion carried.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

UPDATES:

The committee members had many discussions and updates during this meeting. Conversations included:

Future Workers – Paula gave a brief update on Future Workers and mentioned everything was set to go on May 6th 2010.

CEO's in the schools - Paula gave a quick update regarding CEO's in the schools and everything is going well.

GRAND Works– The committee was updated on the Grand Works program. Interviews are set up and ready to go for tomorrow, March 18th at the Chamber of Commerce. Paula also informed the committee members that an evaluation/follow up would be conducted for all past Grand Works participants.

Gold Star Customer Service Awards – Bobbie Kleffman gave an update on the Customer Service Awards. Bobbie explained the new procedure on how they have been notifying winners ahead of time. This is allowing them to better prepare for the acceptance of the award during the luncheon. Bobbie thinks this is working out great!

Workforce Development Grant - Paula informed the committee a meeting with Blandin Foundation is set up for next week regarding the grant.

Project Read – Jaci David informed the committee the Children's Book Drive is underway at this time. If anyone has any books that are in good condition for babies, toddlers, preschoolers & elementary kids, please drop them off at any of the drop off locations including the Chamber. Books will be given away at the Children's Fair on April 24th 2010. Jaci also mentioned the April 18th fundraiser. This is a 5k/10k walk or run. Jaci encouraged the committee to sign up to participate or volunteer.

Fast Track 2.0 - Bud updated the committee on The National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The NCRC is a credential that gives job seekers and employers a measure of workplace skills. It is being used by job seekers across the country as an employment credential, and by employers as an assessment of a person's trainable ability for an entry-level job or for a promotion within the company. Bud has been attending meetings regarding this great program. Bud will continue to update the committee members as new information is given.

Career Fair –Bobbie Kleffman mentioned the Career Fair at ICC is tomorrow March 18th 2010.

Mary Kosak also mentioned that she and Paula went to a Career Fair in Brainerd. The career fair had a strong emphasis on hands-on experiences to get students engaged in the various careers. Students got to use mechanical tools and enter a smoke-filled "building" wearing firefighting equipment to rescue a mannequin that weighed as much as a person. Mary really was amazed at all the hands – on experience this career fair had included.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT:

The committee discussed getting more participants for the Workforce Dev. Committee. The committee members discussed how this could be done. Maybe each committee member invites a chamber member business to be part of the committee? Should the Human Resource Departments of the larger businesses be contacted to participate? The committee feels that participants should have something to contribute to the committee and also have a feel for Workforce issues at hand. The committee decided to have Kerry email Jane the roster of the committee members to contact members already on the committee and ask these questions. Why are they not participating? Do they want to be on the committee still? What can the committee do to engage them more?

ACTION: Kerry will email Jane the Workforce Committee roster as soon as possible. Margie has volunteered to talk to Greg Chandler at Blandin and see who the Human Resources contact is at Blandin.

Margie will also talk with Dave Levelle from MN Power to see who the Human Resources contact is at MN Power.

WHAT TO ACCOMPLISH IN 2010:

Jane Bymark wanted committee members to think about what this committee really wants to accomplish in 2010. The committee made suggestions but all agreed unanimously to see if someone from the Workforce Committee could be a

participant on the on the new SD 318 committee called V4F (Vision for the Future) that has been developed consisting of parents, students, teachers and administrators. This team is in the process of examining student achievement data, building climate, academic offerings, the structure of our school day and extra-curricular options. Jane Bymark will call Jim Smokrovich and talk with him regarding the idea the committee has. The committee briefly discussed the importance of communication between the Workforce Development Committee and the schools and to always remain alert for ways to improve it.

ACTION: Jane will call Jim Smokrovich and let the committee members know the outcome of the conversation at the April meeting.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be April 21st 2010 at 12:00 p.m./Chamber Conference Room.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by Kerry Larsen, Membership & Tourism Coordinator