

Workforce Development

Feb. 17th 2010

PRESENT: Paula Frings, Vickie Herman, Jane Bymark, Jessica Knutson, Bobbie Kleffman, Connie Swanson, Kyle Erickson, Jaci David, Mary Krumrei, Michelle Graber, Margie Ritter, Paula Valentine, Jim Woehrle, Megan Christianson, Jim Smokrovich

STAFF: Kerry Larsen & Bud Stone

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

JAN. 2010 MINUTES:

Kyle Erickson made a motion to approve the Jan. 2010 Minutes; Mary Krumrei seconded; motion carried.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

INTRODUCTION:

The committee members took a few minutes to introduce themselves to the group.

ACTION: No further action is needed

UPDATES:

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

- ~~Future Workers~~ for 2010 – An update was given to the committee regarding Future workers. Kyle Erickson mentioned that a meeting was held and new areas to visit were decided upon. Different businesses were engaged this year and the committee agreed that it is always a good idea to try and engage different chamber member businesses to participate. Paula reminded the committee members that Future Workers is May 6th 2010. A handout was given to each committee member to view that explains Future Workers. Paula asked committee members to please view the handout and email any suggestions they may have.
- ~~CEO's in the schools~~ - Vickie Herman gave an update regarding CEO's in the school. A sign up sheet was passed around for the committee members so they could sign up for the CEO's in the schools training session on March 5th 2010. Vickie mentioned that three schools are participating in that session.
- ~~GRANDWorks/Future Connections~~ – Paula informed the committee that GRANDWorks is in the recruitment process for the next session. Paula also mentioned that we may want to add TeenWorks to the agenda from now on to receive updates.
- ~~Gold Star Customer Service Awards~~ – Bobbie Kleffman updated the committee on the Customer Service Awards. Winners have been picked for March – May 2010 and these recipients will be notified. The recipients get awarded for their Excellent Customer Service at the regular Chamber luncheons.
- ~~Workforce Development Grant~~ - Paula informed the committee that she is meeting with Mary Kosak after this meeting to review the grant.
- ~~Middle School Program~~ – The Superintendents of IASC suggested to the Workforce Dev. Committee that they would like a program that compliments CEO's in the Schools for 6th graders. The committee members were informed that this is in the design stage. More information will be given as this project progresses.
- ~~Project Read~~ – Jaci David updated the committee on a fundraiser that will be held on April 18th 2010 for Project Read. If more information is wanted please contact Jaci David. Jaci mentioned that volunteers are needed as well as participants.
- ~~Scholarships~~ – Kerry updated the committee that applications are starting to come in. The schools are starting to call and confirm the deadlines. Kerry feels that this is a good sign; meaning seniors must be filling them out.

ACTION: No further action is needed. Updates will be given at each committee meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Engagement:

Jane Bymark emailed out the following questions to the committee members ahead of time before the meeting. The committee had a brief discussion on the questions and committee members offered their feelings on the following questions below:

- Why do you belong to the Chamber's Workforce Development Committee?
- What value do you or your organization receive from being involved with the WFD committee?
- What barriers do you have that prevent you from being more involved rather than just attending the meetings?

Old Business:

- Kyle Erickson updated the committee on the IRR Wage Subsidy Program. Kyle passed out an information sheet of Frequently asked Questions. Kyle encouraged the committee members to apply if they think they know someone that may qualify. If anyone has questions about the program they should feel free to contact him at any time.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

- Bud updated the committee on his three hour conference call with Washington DC regarding the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act, Reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act and the Business Coalition for Student Achievement.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

- Jim Smokrovich mentioned that the GRHS site leadership team is examining the strengths and weaknesses of the school. A new committee called the V4F (Vision for the Future) 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 their day and extra-curricular options. Jim is asking for each committee member to please complete the survey. Bud did email this out to Chamber members asking to please complete the survey as well.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

- Facebook was talked about briefly. Committee members suggested a brief Facebook training course could be beneficial for the committee. This could possibly teach committee members about how Facebook can help with their organization.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be March 17th 2010 at 12:00 p.m./Chamber Conference Room.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by Kerry Larsen, Membership & Tourism Coordinator