



Meeting Minutes – Workforce Working Group

Date: January 29, 2018

Time: 12 Noon- 1 p.m.

Location: Prior Lake City Hall – Parkview Conference

Work Group Members:

Michelle Choudek	X	Brenda Lieske	X	Patricia Timmons	
Darren Kermes (Chair)	X	Kathryn Reeder	X	Jeff Pawlicki	X
Mike Beard	X	Kellie McElroy-Hooper	X	Tim Wynes	X
John Bezek (PLSAS)	X	Tim O’Neill	X	Velvet Walker (Normandale)	X
Madelyn Hertaus	X	Nick Slavik		Cindy Walters	X

Staff Members:

Stacy Crakes	X	Mark Jacobs	X	Jo Foust	X
Barb Dahl	X	Jean Sinell	X		

Guests:

Jeff Vizenor (Jordan School)	X	Kathy Nielsen- 50 by 30	X	Eric Weiss (City of Shakopee)	X
Eric Sill (MNCAPS)	X				

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon by Dahl.

Agenda Item 1: High School Discussion with School Representatives.

Dahl provided an overview of the Workforce Readiness Working Group’s efforts and expressed a desire to work in collaboration with educational facilities to address workforce issues, specifically for young adults. Information on existing Workforce Programming by school districts was distributed.

Scott County is a place where people are stable, connected, educated, and contributing

Education representatives provided an overview of collaborative education-employment programming provided at their schools.

John Bezek, Prior Lake High School noted the MNCAPS programs provide real life experience with school-private business partnerships. He noted it takes time to educate parents and find businesses willing to participate.

Jeff Pawlicki, Shakopee School, shared that their district offers a number of private-public partnerships with businesses. He discussed the community coordinator position through the Shakopee Chamber and possibly hiring an academy coach in the future to solicit businesses and assist with student coordination in the six academies. He noted they are expanding the program to include opportunities for 9th grade students. Students at the 6th grade level can begin selecting electives to provide them with exposure to different pathways. It was noted students can still select electives in other courses.

Erik Sill, MNCAPS, stated they design programs to fit job requirement needs, while meeting educational standards established by the state of Minnesota. Businesses also mentor students on various skills, including soft skills.

Discussion occurred on discussions relating to two year technical college options as well as four year degrees, with students and parents. Administrators noted that there is still a push toward a four year option and a stigma associated with a technical degree, however; the districts work with higher educational facilities to provide college courses in the classroom including two and four year educational opportunities. The focus is more on a career or pathways versus a two or four year college. After a student decides what they want to do, then the focus shifts to the education that is required to achieve that career path. The groups discussed ways to remove the stigma of trade schools versus a four year degree. This included discussions at conferences and other meetings.

Jeff Vizenor, Jordan Schools, noted they are in the initial phases of collaborating with private businesses. They have had connections with local businesses and are working on ways to incorporate this into their curriculum.

The benefits of providing post-secondary educational opportunities in Scott County were discussed. Avoiding the commute “north of the river” and retaining the young adults in the county were discussed. Along with higher educational opportunities locally, administrators expressed a need for affordable housing and transportation.

Dahl thanked administrators for attending. She stated that the Workforce Readiness Working Group does not want to replicate what is already being done, rather support and assist in making connections with employers. She shared that the Workforce Readiness Working Group is currently conducting an employer survey with 400 employers in Scott County, including a question if we can connect them with schools. This information will be shared with administrators.

Future meetings to continue the collaborative efforts were discussed. It was noted that the area High School Principals meet the second Tuesday of each month, which conflicts with the regularly scheduled Workforce Readiness Working Group meeting. An alternative meeting time may need to be arranged.

Agenda Item 2: IZY Updates. Nielsen reported the following IZI meetings have been scheduled:

- Education: March 3, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Shakopee East Junior High School
- Housing: March 20, 2018 from 6-9 p.m. Location to be announced.
- Workforce: April 10, 2018 from 6 p.m. to 9 pm. Location to be announced.

A follow up survey will be distributed to determine the next meeting date.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Workforce Readiness Vision Statement

Elevate each person's contribution to the community through a rich variety of local employment opportunities and career pathways.

