

School Board Community Outreach and Policy Committee
OEG IMC – August 28, 2017 – 5:03 PM
Minutes

Membership: Steve Obershaw
Colleen McCabe
Matt Zielinski
Connie Valenza

I. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order and noted that the meeting was properly noticed. Minutes approved by committee members.

II. Community Outreach

- Superintendent Valenza began the committee meeting with a brief overview of the Welcome Back Staff Luncheon that was held earlier in the day at the high school. The luncheon was well received by the businesses that attended and staff. More businesses have inquired about “next time”. A first of hopefully many meetings to have our staff engage with community businesses and how to prepare our students for the workforce. The group discussed the pros and cons that they see with our schools and the community businesses. The schools may struggle with enrollment numbers but our community businesses struggle with finding/keeping employees. Discussion on providing students more “trades” classes/training. Possible tours of businesses for our students – middle school as well as high school. Explore what jobs are available and offered as well as give businesses the opportunity to showcase what they offer.
- Next step? Possibly have coffee talks and showcase different businesses. Possibly start with one at Avista and invite the public.
- Discussed workforce and summer employment for students. Are our students missing out on avenues in the technical area-2 year programs? We need to bring awareness to the large array of jobs available. Provide job fairs during the school year? What skills do we want our students to graduate with? Is our present configuration working?
- Superintendent Valenza stated that a follow-up survey will be given to staff to see their perspective on the day.
- Our businesses support our schools throughout the year (donations, etc.)....how do our schools support our businesses? How can we improve on our support for businesses/community?

III. Other

- Superintendent Valenza noted that October is Manufacturing Month.
- Community Outreach Event – Plan to have a morning coffee talk with targeted industry. Invite interested staff and board members. (Friday, Sept. 15-Professional Day-No School) Advertise for September 15th at 7:30 am – morning coffee & conversation – destination to be determined!

Meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm

Recorded by Lynne Tanner