

School Board and Chamber of Commerce (officers) Meeting February 1, 2021 6:00 p.m.

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- When businesses come into a classroom, they need more than just 15 minutes. They would like to come in and do deeper dives into the content, which will require additional days.
- A good way for school employees to become better connected with the businesses is to actively participate in community events, such as the annual ice fishing contest.
- Another good way for school employees to become better connected with the businesses is to volunteer when the chamber sends out a call for volunteers.
- Perhaps we need to explore a local career fair with the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber members.
- Businesses that are seeking students for summer help should contact the high school to get the message into the daily student announcements. Partnership!
- Possibly explore a job immersion program
 - A format that can be replicated
 - Easily transferrable
 - Up to five weeks
 - Provide a full day with students
 - Week long job
- There is a need to provide better training to students in the area of financial literacy
 - How to fill out a loan application
 - Credit card debt
 - Credit score
 - Income to debt ratio
- There is a need for apprenticeship programs beyond Bridges Academies
- Bring a local banking institution in to teach financial literacy.
 - Make the lessons practical and authentic
- Need more clarification about what exactly it is that S.A.L.T. group does and does not do.
 - Are there community service requirements?
 - Are there volunteer requirements?
- Where are we at with the Junior Achievement Program at the elementary school level?
 - This is another opportunity to cultivate the relationships between the school and the business community.
- Our seniors should be required to complete a community service learning project to earn a diploma.
- We should look at successful partnerships that are out there. We don't need to reinvent the wheel when developing a partnership. There is one in Hutchinson. Healthy partnership between the chamber and the school district.
- The school should host a chamber event, such as business after hours, in the commons area.

- This would be a great networking opportunity and a chance to cultivate relationships. Often times it is not about what you know but who you know.

Summary of take aways from tonight's joint meeting:

- School should host a business after hours to market itself and to show case the positive things going on.
- The school should think about offering patron tours again
 - Eat lunch with students
 - Pizza!
- Encourage all school employees to attend business after hours events
 - This is where the personal relationships are formed
 - This is the perfect place to network with businesses and school employees
- School employees need to get involved with community events
 - There are a number volunteer opportunities.
 - Last winter, the chamber had to resort to going to Aitkin to recruit volunteers for the ice fishing event.
- There has to be more meaningful involvement with businesses in the classroom. There needs to be longer amount of time committed to learn various occupations and students need to be able to spend upwards of a week or two out in a real place of business.
- Need to explore the concept of a local career fair with the chamber members
- Don't reinvent the wheel. Research the Hutchinson partnership model.
- The school needs to do a better job and promoting and marketing itself. This can be accomplished by expanding partnership opportunities within the Cuyuna Lakes Chamber of Commerce. There 500 chamber members to leverage.
 - The chamber has press contacts and can easily promote anything happening in the school.

Closing Thoughts:

- We need a community service component for our students. We need to require this to earn a diploma
- A service learning component will build a better workforce and a better future.
- We need to get the school employees at the business after hours!
- We need to get more businesses in our classrooms. We are short on readers. Please come into our school and read to kids! This is where those vital relationships are formed
- We need to boost attendance at the business after hours and we need to take a serious look at conducting a local job fair.
- We need to partner with CRMC when hosting events. They are really good at promoting events. We need to leverage their capacity to host an event.
- Our students really need to be trained in financial literacy. They need to know how to balance a budget before going to college. They need to know what their career pathway is before taking thousands of dollars of student loan debt.

- Should explore the National Honor Society a little more
 - Can they boost their community service component?
 - They should be required to volunteer a minimum standard of hours.