

**Des Plaines Valley Region
Business Committee
Minutes—October 6, 2015
Elmwood Park High School**

The following members were present: Karen Bear, Elmwood Park High School, Lauren Martire, Leyden High School, Nancy Bardo, Oak Park River Forest, Shaurae Winfield, Proviso West High School, Barb Burchill, Proviso East High School, Riverside Brookfield, Julia Wicklund, Ridgewood, Luca Ciccolini, Ridgewood

Summer Programs

Karen and attendees from last summer's Teacher Workplace Experience reviewed the seminar. Attendees raved about the visit to Fabric Images. The business was interesting and exposed us to multiple career options for students. Reviews were also very positive for the visit to Nicor Energy. We were amazed by the excellent job opportunities available for our students without additional schooling. Nicor trains and promotes from within.

Members were honestly horrified to hear that the program and the Summer Camps were cancelled. We discussed the benefits of TWE and the Health Careers Camp (which had full enrollment.) Members of the committee are planning to talk to their AC members to discuss reinstating these valuable programs.

Update of Dual Credit progress

We reviewed the policies and process for Dual Credit courses at Triton. Concern was expressed that there seems to be some communication issues with Triton. Ridgewood and Leyden tried to connect to get courses reviewed and ran into stumbling blocks. Luca suggested contacting Dr. Chuck Vohleke.

Triton Updates (From Dr. William Griffin)

Triton College of Business will be submitting their first draft report to the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs. This process moves us closer to becoming one of the few community colleges in the state that will have a nationally recognized accredited program for our Accounting and Business Department. A new Bookkeeping Certificate Program will be available in Fall 2016. ACC 101 Financial Accounting will move from a 3 credit hour class to 4 credit hour class Fall 2016. Triton is working with Luisa I. Hernandez, Executive Director of Bridges to College and Careers. Triton College we are working closely with this group to help launch "Accelerating Opportunities Program" that will help move more ESL students into credit classes. A new Accounting Assistant Program is in the works along with a CPA Pathway Program.

Triton's Advisory Business Meeting will be November 4 at 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. with dinner following at Triton College. Nancy Bardo is planning to attend.

Career Spotlights

We reviewed the career spotlights. Most of the members did not know about the spotlights. Committee members voiced their concern that there was no real agenda for the speakers for the spotlights they attended last year. There seems to be the same problem this year. When pressed for details, they said that the IT speaker did not seem to have been prepared at all. She was ready for questions but most students do not know what to ask. The finance presentation last year was primarily about interviewing with little discussion and explanation about careers. They felt that the actual speakers were not strong either. The committee members would like there to be follow-up, feedback surveys for student and teacher attendees. They felt that site visits would be more beneficial. They believe that the Price Waterhouse visit was so positive because PW put together a solid agenda.

Tech Share Workshop

In response to the business teachers of the area requests we decided to hold another Tech Share workshop this year. The event will be held at East Leyden High School in the Little Theatre on February 18th. Further information will be forthcoming. The invitation is open to CTE teachers from the region. Twenty participants are already scheduled. Committee members were asked to confirm additional attendees by next week. Topics include sharing ideas, adding lessons to the DVR website, Google Classroom and using social media for professional development. Additional details will be discussed at our November meeting.

Reading in CTE Workshop

While the speaker for this workshop was qualified members of the committee who attended said that they and the other participants from their schools were very disappointed in the content of the seminar. Members said that they already knew 99% of the material and did not come away with useable techniques. This was particularly disappointing given it was entire day spent away from classes.

Workshops

Members of the committee are planning to attend several professional conferences this year. Barb Burchill will be attending IBEA Conference Nov. 11-13 in Springfield. She noted that on the pre-day of the conference free Microsoft Certification testing will be available. Some members will be attending NBEA Conference in Las Vegas. Many members will be attending the Connections Conference in March.

Other Business

Luca and Julia asked for ideas for courses. Discussion followed. Karen agreed to send AP Computer Principles information.

Curriculum Sharing

Nancy shared her excellent investment unit materials and strategies.

Curriculum Sharing

- ◆ November – Karen Bear – Elevator Pitches
- ◆ May - TBD

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Bear
Business Committee Chairperson

Business Committee Meeting Schedule

Thursday, November 12th, Elmwood Park High School, 12:30
Tech Share – February 18th, East Leyden High School, Little Theatre
Tuesday, May 3rd, Elmwood Park High School, 12:30