

**Greater Madison Area Chamber of Commerce  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Agenda  
April 4, 2018**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Committee will promote and support education at all levels and enhance the educational partnership within the community.

**Present:** Courtney Storm, Ann Zerfas, Crystal Pauli, Cecelia Wittmayer, Vicki Kommes, Charlotte Groce, Penni Groce

**Call to order, Charlotte Groce**

**Approval of agenda** – Crystal Pauli made a motion and it was seconded by Ann Zerfas to approve the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes from March meeting** – Cecelia Wittmayer made a motion and it was seconded by Crystal Pauli to approve the minutes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Promotion of Educator of the Year and Friends of Education awards:

- a. Deadline for these Chamber Ed awards is May 31<sup>st</sup>. Applications available on-line/list serve

*The application email will be sent out to the school administrators as well and they will be encouraged to forward the information to department heads, deans, etc.*

- b. Selection Committee

*Ann Zerfas and Crystal Pauli volunteered. One more is needed. Charlotte will send an email to all Chamber Ed members asking for a volunteer. She will also email the award criteria to the selection committee.*

2. Other awards:

- a. Honor retirees with a certificate

*Charlotte will work with Courtney to get retiree names from school administrators. The awards will be sent to the administrators for distribution.*

- b. Above and Beyond award status

*Courtney is working on the materials for this and the box is nearly completed.*

3. Tour of DSU for May meeting

*The May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting will be held at DSU. This is a bring your own lunch (brown bag) meeting. Committee members will meet in Kennedy Center room 104, tour the library and briefly tour the TC Center and Science Center. We will then go back to Kennedy Center to hold our regular monthly meeting. Crystal will secure parking passes.*

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### 1. Chamber Educator's Reception

#### a. Discuss possible date:

*The date will be August 29<sup>th</sup> and Charlotte will confirm that this will work for Carol at Nicky's.*

#### b. finances for reception

*Charlotte noted after hearing the 2017 financial report at the recent chamber annual meeting, that our committee was over budget. Executive Director Eric Hortness noted during the annual meeting that this was okay for a committee of this nature, however Charlotte encouraged committee members to try and secure a little more in donations during our fund drive. The fund drive information will be distributed to committee members in May and we will have the summer to ask for donations.*

## **REPORTS:**

### a. Junior Achievement

*The annual fund drive will kick off on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Board members will be calling previous donors and potential donors to support the program.*

### b. Madison Christian School

No report.

### c. Professional Training Services

No report.

### d. St. Thomas School

*Thank you to everyone who supported the school at our spring dinner and auction. \$42,000 was brought in.*

*This month, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade will start Smarter Balanced Assessments. This is state testing in English Language Arts. Spring fling will be held after the testing is over. During that week, students get to dress up, attend the Shamrock Hop and go on a field trip.*

### e. DSU

*The EU Ambassador will be on campus April 9<sup>th</sup>.*

*The honors banquet will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>.*

*The secretary of Airforce will be on campus in June. Details about that are pending.*

*The Egan Ave. side of campus is preparing for construction. General Beadle (statue) and the World War rock monument have been relocated to different areas on campus.*

*Lowry Hall will be coming down and they will try and preserve as many trees as possible. The Egan to 6<sup>th</sup> street turn is blocked off for traffic.*

*There are quite a few camps planned over the summer.*

*A tech conference will be held in Sioux Falls at the Holiday in the near future. Over 100 faculty practicing in the various technology fields will be in attendance. The event is held in Sioux Falls due to hotel availability and access to the airport.*

*Dr. Jones from the College of Arts and Science is taking a group of students to Kansas City.*

*Looking at putting a daycare on campus. There are several campuses in the state that have been doing this for some time. This project is in it's very early stages. Vicki and Crystal both highlighted some technology through Google that will act as a prompter for students with autism and disabilities. Crystal also mentioned the use of avatars through a program called VALE that student teachers live teach for. The avatars act as the students for the student teachers.*

f. Madison Central School

*No report. It was noted that Cotton Koch was unable to attend because he was at the SDAESP conference where he was to receive his middle school principal of the year award.*

g. MCS Foundation

*No report.*

h. Valiant Living

*Vicki Kommes noted that they currently server 60 people with disabilities. They have five group homes and a supported living residential system.*

*Their special education teacher is currently planning the two month summer program for students with disabilities.*

*Their highest priority is employment for people with disabilities. Two people are employed at Global Polymer, one person is employed at Second Street Diner, and several people are employed at the Madison Recycling Center.*

*Their new group home on Union Ave is now completed and people have moved in. This building provides housing for four people on one side, and two people on the other.*

*Vicki is happy to have the project completed before retiring in May.*

*A new executive director has been hired and the board has asked Vicki to extend her last day to May 31<sup>st</sup>. This allows time for the new director, Jennifer Larson, to begin her employment (end of May start date). Jennifer has over 20 years of experience in this field and is currently working for the Dept. of Human Services, Office of the Secretary. She oversees the South Dakota Guardianship program. Vicki is confident that Jennifer will make a great fit for Valiant Living and will encourage her to be part of the Chamber Ed Committee.*

*Congratulations were expressed from the committee to Vicki for her Distinguished Service Award honor this year.*

Our next meeting will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Dakota State University, KC Room 104. Election of officers will be held at this meeting.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Cecelia Wittmayer and seconded by Vicki Kommes to adjourn the meeting.