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Clark County School Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, February 5, 2018 – 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Present: Marnie Allen, ESD 112; Colete Anderson, Clark County Community Planning; Marc Boldt, County Council Chair; Monty Anderson, Battle Ground School District; Brittany Bagent, Columbia River Economic Development Council; Mike Bomar, Columbia River Economic Development Council; Dr. Tim Cook-Clark College; Ted Feller, Executive Director, SW Washington STEM Learning Network; Michael Green, Woodland School District; Dave Holmes, La Center School District; Noland Hoshino, City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods Alternate; Sharon Kruse, Washington State University-Vancouver; Jeanne Lawson, JLA Public Involvement; Laurie Lebowsky, Clark County Community Planning; Nathan McCann, Ridgefield School District; Julie Olson, Natalie Pacholl, SEH America; County Council; Kimberly Pincheira, Columbia River Economic Development Council; Mark Ross, Battle Ground School District; John Steach, Evergreen School District; Mike Stromme, Washougal School District; Sandra Yager, Hockinson School District;

Absent: Christie BrownSilva, Neighborhood Association of Clark County Chair; Mary Elkin, City of Vancouver Office of Neighborhoods; Connie Hennessey, Camas School District; Mark Hess, Clark County Community Development Building Department; Todd Horenstein, Vancouver School District Alternate; Scott Johnson, CRESA; Kevin Jolma, Battle Ground School District; Joe Laxon, Public Health; Tammy Lichliter, La Center School District; Dr. Alan Melnick, Public Health Officer and Administrator; Mike Nerland, ESD 112; Ken Root, Battle Ground School District; Greg Shafer, Clark County Public Works Development Engineering; Sue Steinbrenner, Evergreen School District; Mark Stoker, Vancouver School District; Rekah Strong, EOCF; Jacqui VanSoest, Green Mountain School District Alternate; Tyson Vogeler, Green Mountain School District; Denny Waters, Battle Ground School District

- 1. Welcome and introductions** – Councilor Boldt welcomed those in attendance
- 2. Overview of Columbia River Economic Development's (CREDC's) new strategic plan, workforce training & education** – Mike gave an overview of the CREDC's Economic Development Plan, which established a 20 year vision in becoming one of the most inclusive, healthy and amenity-rich communities in the country with a emphasis on community minded employers so that talent both inside and outside the community find opportunities here. The main focus on this presentation was Goal 2 of the Clark County Comprehensive Economic Development Plan; Support People. The five strategic sectors of this plan are software, computer and electronics, clean tech, metals and machinery and life sciences. Objective 2.1 is Foster Skills Development. The CREDC will collaborate with regional partners to make sure that their programs are designed to meet the skills gap that will be in demand by employers, both at the K-12 level and within higher education. Equitable access, inclusion and diversity are at the forefront of implementing these plans.

SEH America and Evergreen Public Schools Partnership Example – Natalie gave a synopsis of what SEH does to work with the Evergreen School District and promote workplace opportunities for local students. SEH America is a high-tech manufacturer that makes wafers. Wafers are the foundation of the electronics industry. The SEH factory employs approximately 950 employees in a wide variety of



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jobs. Technical skills can be taught, but SEH is looking for employees with soft skills such as time management, knowledge of basic computer programs and appropriate business communication skills, at the time of hiring.

SEH has been partnered with Evergreen Public Schools since 2007. Their goal is to give high school students the foundation of knowledge, skills and abilities that employers are looking for. 45-50 students per year participate in instructional worksite learning internships at SEH. Students earn both high school and college credit while gaining workplace knowledge.

Three core components have evolved over time to make this program successful:

1. Skills Training – weekly meetings that promote positive workplace rules and skills such as communication, conflict management, writing a professional email.
2. Technical Skills – basic workplace safety on a manufacturing floor, how to write a professional document.
3. Hands-on Project – Learning experiences that are interesting and has practical workplace applications.

All learning experiences are supported with mentoring by Natalie, project supervisors and intern leads (interns who have already completed the program).

280 students have completed internships at SEH and approximately 1/3 of those have been hired by SEH. Many newly hired interns work part time for SHE while continuing their education, most often in the engineering field.

Discussion – Julie asked how does an organization like the CREDC and Clark County encourage or be a part of the process to get more organizations involved in programs like what SEH is doing.

Comments:

Many companies want to be involved and do more within the community to grow the workforce but that is not their expertise. Canned examples with easy to follow steps would be helpful.

Time for the connection is the biggest barrier. How much time is needed for a meaningful experience that would benefit both the company and the students? School districts need to see that students will be in a secure environment with supervision and learning objectives being met.

SEH, WaferTech and Columbia Machine have a hiring fair every May for high school seniors. Natalie would like to see support between the companies for interns. If another company has a more suitable position open for a former intern, she'd like to be able to refer the intern to the company that does.

There is interest and willingness from both businesses and the school districts, but these types of programs are unfunded by the state. To participate, schools districts have to redirect time and resources that are earmarked for something else. A voice in support of these sorts

of programs are needed at the legislative level.

Snapshot of Clark County's Career Connected Learning System – Ted spoke about the skills gap problem in Clark County. The skill sets needed by businesses aren't being met at the current level of education in Clark County. The STEM Network is working to define what barriers are contributing to this gap and how to overcome them. Internship programs have been developed by the SW WA STEM Network in La Center, multiple sites in Vancouver and they are in the process of implementing internships in Woodland, as well as have been creating partnerships with a larger number of businesses.

Ted presented data showing the projected education levels of Clark County's high school graduating class of 2015. 65% of students who start high school are projected not to earn a post-secondary degree, credential, or certification while 70% of new jobs in SW WA will require that level of training.

Data Sources – Educational Research and Data Center 2015 P20 Report
OSPI Washington State Report Card 2017 Data Files

3. 2018 Work Plan Discussion Goal setting for 2018-2019

- a. Jeanne presented the question “do you feel your investment in time to this group has been worthwhile?”
 - The communication and the venue are important and beneficial.
 - The members of the group serve many different purposes within the educational field, so having an open dialogue within the SAC builds familiarity and connections.
- b. The goal for the next meeting is to put together a work plan. What are some of the issues that should be discussed?
 - School site locations
 - Supporting kindergarten readiness
 - Student well-being (mental health, drug use)

4. Next steps - Preparations will begin soon for August meeting with the Clark County Council. Laurie encouraged all to think about speakers that may be able to contribute to the discussion. More discussion on the work plan is needed. There will be time for Sharon from WSUV to discuss the master plan update in May.

5. Next meeting – Monday, May 7 from 1:30 to 3:30. The discussion topic will be preparation for the joint Schools Advisory Council and City Council Meeting which will be held on August 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.