

**Williston-Elko Business, Education, Community Partnership
(BEC)
Meeting October 14, 2013 in the Media Center**

Present were the following:

Joni McDaniel, LS REC
Freddie Houston, Barnwell County Council
Michael Benjamin, Energy Solutions
Anna Johnson, Shaw AREVA MOX Services
Greg Sweet, Williston School District
Carol Lenderman, Williston School District
Alicia Penfield, Williston School District
Pete Grady, Barnwell County Economic Development Corporation
Nakeisha Baxley, Williston School District
Jamie Wooten, Winfield Heights Baptist Church
Bob Bruns, NBS
Tom Siler, Williston School District
Marty Martin, Barnwell County Economic Development Corporation
Ferlecia Cuthbertson, Community
Cathy Smith, Williston School District

Bob Bruns, BEC Chair, led the meeting. The minutes from the August 27, 2013 meeting were approved. Introductions from all present were made.

Mr. Bruns began the discussion of how to incorporate the “Community” piece in this process. More education and connections need to be made to the parents, as a whole. Some of the suggestions were:

- Incorporate at church events & programs.
- Invite more parents to the “table” to see what the needs are.
- Host an information session at the Public Housing location.
- Work through the local churches within existing programs. For example at Winfield Heights Baptist church, tag on to the monthly food pantry.
- Reach parents at local athletic events.

Several specifics of what areas to address were discussed as well.

- “Your Child is Job #1” – video
- Workkeys/Career 101 (This could help the parents themselves)
- “Choices” program – conduct with the actual parents
- Basic Career/College Information
- Solicit help and assistance from “successful parents”.
- Advertise the BEC/Create a website for the parents to connect to.
- Family Friendly Standards

The board decided to take immediate action. Mrs. Cuthbertson and Mrs. Smith will organize an information table at the Winfield Heights Fall Festival, to be held October 31. Pastor Wooten will take care of the logistics.

Mr. Sweet discussed the need for mentors in the schools, especially at the middle level. Everyone was in agreement that this is a great need and action should be taken. Mrs. Cuthbertson will reach out to the faith based and Mr. Martin will address the businesses at the Industry Meetings. A specific goal was made. By the end of December, 20 delegated mentors will be contacted. Mr. Sweet will organize a time and place for mentor training. Mr. Benjamin agreed to create a letter that will address the need for mentors. He will email this to everyone for approval and additions, and within a week, will have the final copy ready to be sent.

Sponsorships were addressed. Get smaller businesses and have customers donate money towards this, was one suggestion. Joni suggested different levels of sponsorships. For example, platinum, gold or silver. Additional ways to incorporate this may be discussed in the future.

The time of day and frequency of meetings were discussed. It was unanimously decided to meet monthly. The time is changed to 4:00, in order to accommodate all involved.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18, 2013 at 4:00 in the Williston Media Center.

Prepared by: Cathy Smith, Vice-Chair