

**Williston-Elko Business, Education, Community Partnership
(BEC)
Meeting August 27, 2013 in the Media Center**

Present were the following:

Dr. Carol Lenderman
Mr. Pete Grady
Dr. Tom Siler
Dr. Brian Newsome
Rev. Jamie Wooten
Mr. Greg Sweet
Ms. Nakeisha Baxley
Ms. Ferlecia Cuthbertson
Ms. Cathy Smith

The meeting began with introductions from everyone present. Dr. Siler spent a few minutes reflecting on the death of Mr. Rountree this past summer. He was recognized for his generous donation and his goals and visions for creating "BEC".

Cathy Smith presented a power point on the "Past, Present, and Future" of BEC. She touched on the positive effects BEC has had on the students, businesses and community. Funds were used to allocate career development, field trips, technology, and additional resources this past year. She discussed the 2013-2014 career plans and goals. Future goals and direction of the BEC were outlined. Ms. Smith also discussed "Soft Skills" and how this topic will be addressed and emphasized at school.

There was group discussion pertaining to Barnwell County, in general. Mr. Grady stated Barnwell County is presently looking for industries for the Blackville Industrial Park. Dr. Siler reflected on the industry tours that were taken last year with the students. He felt it was educational and motivational.

Nominations for officers were held. Mr. Grady nominated Bob Bruns for Chair. It was seconded by Dr. Lenderman and all approved. Dr. Siler nominated Cathy Smith for Vice-Chair. Dr. Newsome seconded and all were in favor. Mrs. Smith nominated Ferlecia Cuthbertson for the office of secretary. Mr. Grady seconded and all were in favor. Dr. Siler nominated Joni McDaniel for treasurer. Mr. Sweet seconded the nomination and all were in favor. Mrs. Smith agreed to contact those nominees that were not present at the meeting.

Ms. Cuthbertson shared with the group her visits to several schools. She discussed some options of how tardies were handled at the middle and high levels. Also, she was impressed by the "career visuals" that were displayed at one of the Middle Schools she visited. Mr. Sweet informed the group that this particular school had adopted the "AVID" program. This program trains students to have the mindset of going to college. They host classes for parents to educate them on how to send their child to school. This is something he would possibly consider in the future.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 14, 2013 at 6:00pm in the Williston-Elko School District Media Center.