

Character Counts! Coalition Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2008

Present: Vera Wiltse, Kathy Methner, Carolyn Bennett, Duane Ellis, Arlene Cleveland, Chris Bundy and Nate Lockwood

I. Review of February 5, 2008 meeting minutes

II. Additions to the Agenda

The CD came up for renewal and rolled over.

Linda Seagraves from Shepherd Middle School is attending a Chicago Training with funding for the tuition from the Isabella County Character Counts! Coalition scholarship program.

III. Discussion with Chris Bundy and Nate Lockwood- CC! coordination with PEAK.

Nate Lockwood provided the background on the PEAK program's founding and funding. In grades K-8 there are over 300 kids in the after school program. PEAK has a 6-week summer program. This program could highlight one pillar per week. 500 kids are enrolled in the summer. Because of construction this summer, locations will vary. Scholarships are available to kids in need.

Chris Bundy presented additional input on the summer program. Kathy has questions about summer enrollment. About one quarter of summer participants are non-Mt Pleasant students. If a kid is a Mt Pleasant student the cost is \$200 for the six weeks, non-Mt pleasant student is \$300. Snacks are a consistent cost as is transportation (ICTC tickets) and field trips. CC! could provide financial support with ICTC. Discussion follows about meeting the needs of special needs students. CC! also might fund a scholarship program. Listening Ear also provides counseling opportunities through the summer for a fee. Two percent funds subsidize. PEAK is a United Way Agency. PEAK pays for custodial services in the Mt Pleasant school facilities they use.

Group discusses how to prepare PEAK site coordinators to interweave CC! pillars into their weekly themes.

CC! could sponsor T-shirts for \$2500 (\$5 each x 500). Chris suggests CC! tattoos. They already have PEAK tattoos. Nate discusses the possibilities of a poster contest and targeting schools which are deficient in character education. Possible use of the 4-H Camp is discussed.

Kathy and Kim suggest that having PEAK staff trained to incorporate CC! language is a way of supporting the CC! message. Character Cash and PEAK Dollars have been successfully been used as rewards in other summer programs.

Funding staff T-shirts with a CC! message might be the most feasible way to combine the messages. It is noted that any logo must be approved by the Josephson Institute.

At the next CC! meeting the potential options for coordination with the PEAK program will be discussed and prioritized.

The next meeting of the Character counts! Coalition will be held at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 1 at the 4 H Offices in the County Building.