



**Friday, March 26, 2021**  
**Virtual Meeting: 9-10:15 a.m.**

**Present:** Bill Flanagan, Tara Tinder, Rachelle Elliott, Megge Casique, Gloria Heiss, Kayla Oestreich, Drew Pennington, Kathy Pohl, and Brenda Plakans.

### **1) Welcome and Announcements from Tara Tinder, Executive Director, SCF**

We look forward to resuming in person meetings at the Beloit Public Library with our Pillars and Partners! With articles dropping in the local media and the billboards up, we anticipate questions and engaging conversations with people in our community. Feel free to share and use for the benefit of your clients and organizations. Additionally, she and Bill will be presenting to Student Services for the School District of Beloit, which is comprised of Special Education Staff, Social Workers and Guidance Counselors. Lastly, a shout out to Beloit Parks & Recreation with the launch of "Trail Tales" around Riverside Lagoon. This is an exciting time for the initiative!

### **2) Introduction of New Partners**

Welcome to Kayla Oestreich, a returning member with Community Action (childhood care) and Megge Casique, representing Youth2Youth 4 Change for Executive Director Debbie Fischer.

### **3) Marketing BDN: Bill Flanagan, BLFLI Chair**

To ensure that early childhood literacy is in the forefront, private meetings have been held with Superintendents Daniel Keyser (SDB) and Dennis McCarthy (Turner), which resulted in enthusiastic support. On the business side, a positive meeting also occurred with Tim McKeveitt, President and CEO of Beloit Health Systems. These pillar relationships are very important in navigating the road to success for this initiative.

With the publication of an article by Hilary Gavan and a spread in both the Beloit Daily News and the Stateline News, we discovered that there are additional ways to promote the important, related work of our nonprofit partners. The Community Section of the BDN will publish, *free of charge*, online submissions of a story or narrative of your organization with a photo. Partners are encouraged to build on this current BLFLI energy and capitalize on the power of this movement. We are a unique entity in that we hold monthly meetings, have grown in strength as a result of interactions and collaborations among our people, and are committed to the well-being of our community and its success moving forward. Kathy Pohl added that the BEA (Beloit Education Association) would be another excellent conduit for support and promotion.

### **4) Spring Updates: Rachelle Elliott, Director of Early Literacy, SDB**

Beginning this month, Netflix Jr. has a series of books by black authors being read by celebrities on their [YouTube Channel](#). She shared 50 top picture books with a focus on SEL (Social Emotional Learning) from [We Are Teachers](#) as well as some resources from [Zero to Three](#), benefitting early learning for infants and toddlers. With SDB schools re-opening in hybrid form to students starting April 8, 4K enrollment is being encouraged!

## 5) Partner Reports:

- **Gloria Heiss (UW-Madison student/Literacy Advocate)**—Interviews occurred this week for the bookmobile intern, with a promising applicant who has library experience. Culvers is providing 300 Scoopie tokens for events, which she is currently putting together on her literacy calendar. She anticipates offering 2 or 3 activities mid-May before school concludes for SDB students but will otherwise be starting with her regular schedule in June. Planned stops include SDB schools with food trucks, the library, WIC for a potential read aloud and a storytime at the Welty Environmental Center. Tara reminded Gloria of BLFLI banners for use on site with each event.
- **Brenda Plakans (Welty Environmental Center)**—Field trips are starting in person, which tie in nature themes with SEL focus. Camps will run this summer, so checking on numbers for safe spacing. Down the pipeline, Biden is offering Pre-K education funding, so keep an eye out for those grants, and be reminded of Quint Studer’s literacy elements at new baseball stadium!
- **Kathy Pohl (St. Paul Soup Lunch Bunch)**—With church still online, “to go” meals continue to be distributed, face to face outreach TBD. Good news as the book cart and Little Free Library remain popular among their regulars.
- **Megge Casique (Youth2Youth 4 Change)**—Currently students are helping to replace the stolen plexiglass and fix broken doors (as well as replenish books) for community Little Free Libraries. They continue to publish a new podcast each month on their [website](#), created by Undivided Minds. Recent themes are COVID vs Teachers / College Experiences, Prepping for the Future.
- **Drew Pennington (Director of Planning and Building, City of Beloit)**—The City Hall bookshelf has been updated but is still not fully accessible to the public. Drew mentioned some excellent outreach from Turner educator Megan Nelson. He is looking forward to future collaboration efforts.

4) **Calendar:** Next meeting date is Friday, April 23rd, 2021 at 9 a.m. AT RIVERSIDE ROOM, BPL!  
(Please indicate if you prefer a Zoom option when you RSVP to [Jamie@statelinecf.com](mailto:Jamie@statelinecf.com))

