



Advisory Council Small Group Lunch

Hosted by Robert Half International
January 11, 2019

Minutes

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Attendees: (name + organization)

Stephen Hilton, Robert Half and PPIE Board President

Steve McCoy-Thompson, PPIE

Sarah Baer, PPIE

Dan Benveniste, Startup Genius/Finding Genius

Derek Balch, Wells Fargo

Steve Van Dorn, Pleasanton Chamber of Commerce

Mona Sethi, Huntington Learning

Neetu Trivedi, PPIE Ambassador

Will Evangelista, Robert Half

Caryn Evangelista

Bryan Gillette, Summiting Group

Steve Maher, PUSD Trustee

Ann Jayne, Vintage Hills Principal

Viji Manickam, PPIE and PSEE Board Member

Goal: Foster practical, meaningful collaboration between business and education for a stronger community.

Discussion Summary:

Stephen Hilton, Robert Half Corporate Controller and PPIE Board President

Stephen welcomed everyone to Robert Half (which has an office in Pleasanton and headquarters in Bishop Ranch). Last year, Robert Half helped placed 52,000 people in full-time jobs and 220,000 in temporary jobs. Robert Half International welcomes the opportunity to build strong business-education partnerships with groups like the PPIE Advisory Council.

Steve McCoy-Thompson, PPIE Executive Director

PPIE now has 85 members and friends of the Advisory Council. This is our 6th Advisory Council lunch, which we typically limit to around 15 people to foster meaningful discussion. Last year, the Advisory Council helped launch the Speed Interview program at Foothill High School (100 students participated last year and 150 will on March 12 this year). At our last meeting, Road Trip Nation presented their career path navigation platform and PPIE followed up by training all our high school counselors on how to use the app. If you have not done so, please consider going to RoadTripNation.org to set up your profile. We look forward to exploring more initiatives.

Dan Benveniste, StartUp Genius/Finding Genius

Dan's goal is to bring an innovation/growth mindset to education, working mostly in the middle of the country. The organization deploys an online innovation challenge that gamifies real world problems, often defined by a sponsoring company, and allows students teams to compete to address these challenges. In the process, the students also develop soft skills, such as team-based collaboration and communication. Students will do self assessments on their collaboration, communication, problem-solving and critical thinking skills and will receive peer assessments as well. In addition, the sponsoring company/school district/college can provide mentors and judges for the student teams, which offers an impactful employee engagement opportunity for companies and valuable input for the students.

Steve and Dan have been working to plan an Innovation Challenge for PUSD students. Steve has been talking to a number of local companies about sponsoring this challenge, which will likely occur sometime this spring. The challenges are typically 2-3 week challenge and there is an award ceremony, with cash prizes, at the end. Dan gave a demonstration of the software the students use to refine their solutions as well as how volunteer judges and mentors provide input to the students.

Action Items/Next Steps/On the Horizon

- Next speed interview session on March 12 at Foothill.
- PPIE has just kicked off an Inspire campaign to better promote PPIE's impact across the community. People can nominate school staff that PPIE funds from our website. As a business sponsor, if you want to be associated with a program, let us know. See sample below.
- We have opened up a brokerage account for donors to donate shares to the foundation.
- The Run for Education is April 14. The Oakland A's will have a presence, including Stomper running the Kids Challenge.
- The next Advisory Council lunch will be in a couple of months.

INSPIRING
THE PLEASANTON COMMUNITY ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
EDUCATION, BUSINESS
AND COMMUNITY

#1 IN A SERIES: EDUCATION

Meet Sabrina» She attended Amador Valley High School, and thanks to funding from PPIE, competed in We The People, a competitive civics team that consistently ranks in the top five nationally every year.

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“We the People inspired me to pursue a career in government and law. I use the skills I gained from the program as a law student at UC Berkeley Law.”
— SABRINA, UC BERKELEY SCHOOL OF LAW

PPIE Fun fact: over the past 25 years, PPIE has funded over \$1m in student and education grants through the generosity of our donors.
Learn how you can become a donor today. Visit ppie.org

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