



President and Chair: *Larry Weiss*  
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***Parents Matter Coalition of Pierre/Ft. Pierre***  
***SD State Library***  
***Conference Room 1, Pierre, SD***  
***Wednesday, at Noon***  
***February 15, 2017***

**I. Introductions** - Present were: Jeanice Benton, Jane Ramsey, Shandi McFarling, Ruby Douglas, Cindy Bahe, Carmella Bourke, Diana Melvin, and Amy Fowler

**II. Approval of Consent Calendar**

**a. December 14, 2016 Minutes** - tabled until next time since they were not available to review

**b. Agenda**

**III. What is: "Character is Contagious"** - handouts of examples were given out

- **Mission**
- **Vision**

**IV. Identify Character Traits**

Cindy and Amy talked about the background of the Character is Contagious Initiative and how Mike and Sandy Swartz came in Nov. Conversation quickly turned into other entities doing character teachings.

4-H does character counts

Middle School does one character trait per month. Amy wrote out what they are going to focus on this coming school year 17-18'

All need to work together

Concerns: workplace bullying, suicide in young people (no coping skills), back in my time...attitude

Shirley Bernie – Cap Area Counseling teaching American Indian kids character traits

Character Traits? Need to get everyone's input - do an online survey

Diana Melvin – contact Stanley County Schools

Ruby Douglas – Contact Mary Gates at the Right Turn – soft skills). Pierre Indian Learning

Center

Get specific when talking about respect.

Connect traits to an outcome...some thought this would be impossible. there are too many outcomes.

Get kids from the Middle and High Schools involved to tell us the "real" problems.

**V. Adjourn** - meeting adjourned at 1.

**Steering Committee Members: Amy Fowler, Larry Weiss, Laura White, Ruby Douglas, Diana Melvin, Cindy Bahe, Butch Johnston, Diane Inch, Sandy and Mike Schwartz.**

*"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."*Franklin Delano Roosevelt