



**JSDC Joint Business Attraction & Existing Business Committee Meeting**  
**Friday, June 6, 2025**  
**Official Minutes**  
**JSDC Lower-Level Conference Room**

**Members Present:** Jeremy Rham, Tonya Perkins, Tory Hart, Dwaine Heinrich, Levi Taylor (via Phone), Amanda Hastings, David Steele, Jen Dockter.

**Members Absent:** Casey Henderson, Mike Delfs, Dustin Jensen, Ben Steinolfson.

**Staff Present:** Corry Shevlin, Alyssa Looyesen, Jamie Czapiewski.

**Guests Present:** Tyler Liebl, Explorers Academy.

**Call to order:** 12:00 p.m. by Jen.

**Conflict of Interest Declaration:** None.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the May 7, 2025, meeting were in the One Drive for review.

*Tonya made a motion to approve the minutes as shown, Amanda seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.*

**Daycare Application – Explorers Academy:** Alyssa’s memo regarding the Daycare Expansion Assistance application was in the One Drive. Explorers Academy Jamestown, a licensed childcare facility, is expanding their childcare center that provides care for children ranging from infants to school aged. With this expansion, Explorers Academy will have the flexibility to grow their after-school care program as well as expand their current capacity for other age groups within a more structured layout of the building. The expansion of the childcare center will allow their capacity to grow from serving 60 children to serving up to 90 children.

Tyler Liebl, CFOO of Explorers Academy, was in attendance to answer any questions. The facility is currently operating at full capacity, serving 60 children. The expansion will include two new classrooms, along with two full bathrooms equipped with water, electric, and plumbing. This growth is expected to create up to five full-time and eight to nine part-time jobs. The center offers a proprietary preschool curriculum called “The Think Program” for children ages three and up. Security is a top priority, with 24/7 surveillance cameras and secure FOB access for both families and staff. The expansion will focus on school-age children, offering after-school programs within their existing 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. hours. As part of the project, the playground will be upgraded with age-appropriate equipment for older children, and the new building addition will help form part of the secure perimeter around the play area.

Alyssa made the recommendation to fund this project in the amount of up to \$10,000, with an 80/20 city/county split.

*Jeremy made a motion to recommend the Explorers Academy's Daycare Expansion Assistance application to the Board. Amanda seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.*

**Review of Internship Reimbursement Program Data:** Jamie presented data on the internship reimbursement program. None of last year's interns stayed with their companies, although some had in past years. The program's effectiveness was discussed, noting that only about 18.6% of interns have stayed in the area long-term.

Corry suggested setting clearer goals for success and possibly changing the program to focus on new positions where companies have real job openings that interns could fill after the internship ends.

There was continued debate about whether to keep including nursing and medical internships, since they can be hard to separate from required clinical hours. Some committee members were concerned about removing these important healthcare roles.

They discussed what would be considered a successful retention rate for the program. Corry suggested aiming for about 40% of interns accepting job offers after the internship. There was also discussion on whether success means staying with the same company or simply staying in the Jamestown area.

Staff will review the program and offer suggestions in the coming months.

**Project Updates:** Corry and Alyssa provided project updates.

**Adjourned:** Jen adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Czapiewski, Operations Coordinator