I. Welcome/Introductions
Tim St. Onge welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Dave Campbell, KRESA Superintendent, also welcomed everyone and expressed his pleasure of being a part of KRESA and EFE.

Members Present: Eric Alburtus, Mary Kay Balaguer, Jerry Brown, Ryan Callahan, Dave Campbell, Christine Dahl, Amy Doxtater, Kevin Hollenbeck, Craig Howard, Greg Lozeau, Brian Lueth, Deb Miller, Sarah Morgan, Jim Murphy, Kathy Olsen, Dick Overton, Karen Robyn, Larry Schlack, James Sertic, Kara Stewart, Tim St. Onge and Jim Taylor
Guests: Kim Bell, Eric Epplett, Ken Willcutt and Dominic Zanoni

II. Announcements
   a. EFE Events – A handout was given to the committee showing important dates for EFE events for the 2013-2014 school year. Amy Doxtater explained the Davenport Competition event that is held annually in May. Tim invited all members to attend any or all of these events.
   b. Organization Structure – A handout was given to the committee showing the organization structure of EFE. The org chart was explained by Deb Miller.

III. SW Michigan Manufacturing Update
Jim Sertic explained the Southwest Michigan Advanced Manufacturing Career Consortium and showed a slide which contained the names of many employers who belong to this group. The companies represented in this group are dedicated to working with educators to provide long careers at great and high tech manufacturing companies.
Jim also showed a Project Lead The Way flyer and explained how important this initiative is to the consortium and to EFE.

IV. Internship Program
Anna Patton gave a brief explanation of the Internship partnership that was established with Dimplex Solutions. Three EFE students have participated in this program to date. Special thanks was extended to Ann Woolley for her hard work and continued effort to provided EFE students with paid internship opportunities. Deb Miller invited other business around the table to investigate and participate in this model of internship.

V. EFE Update
Deb Miller explained the Career Pipeline handout that was given to the council. PLTW and STEM were discussed. Project Lead The Way is currently offered in three Kalamazoo County schools; Vicksburg High School, Portage Central Middle School, and Schoolcraft Middle School.

VI. 2012-2013 Current Student Survey
Kevin Hollenbeck gave a PowerPoint presentation to the council showing detailed survey results. The survey has been given to EFE students over the past 18 years. Questions were answered to discuss these results. Overall data shows that EFE students are generally very happy in their EFE programs. An Action Item was noted by Jim Sertic: Provide more employment opportunities to all EFE students.
Increase the work/co-op opportunities for EFE students. Kevin Hollenbeck noted that at the onset of the EFE Council a goal of 50% work/employment opportunities for students was set. The current figure is at approximately 35%.

Special thanks was given to Kevin Hollenbeck and the Upjohn Institute for their continued efforts to provide this data.

A suggestion was made to give this survey with the assessments that are given in the spring. Perhaps this would be a vehicle to get more students to participate in the survey.

VII. Career Pipeline
Deb Miller explained the handout of the Career Education Initiatives that are currently in place in Kalamazoo County.

VIII. Soft-skills Poster
Karen Robyn updated the council on the status of the soft-skills poster initiative. Steps have been taken to create a poster that would be used in the classrooms to show awareness of good character traits that are needed for good employees. The poster is under construction at this time.
Tim St. Onge stated that very few students in both high school and college are aware of what soft-skills are. There seems to be a high demand for this poster, both in classrooms and at the workplace. Kara Stewart pointed out the Southwest MI Healthcare Consortium is supportive and interested in obtaining this poster for the worksite as well.

IX. Members Time
Kevin Hollenbeck stated that Common Career Technical Core Standards are reflective of earlier discussion. These standards should be supported by the council and by EFE. For further information please see the URL: http://www.careertech.org/career-technical-education/cctc/

Kathy Olsen began discussion for minors in the workplace. Deb Miller shared how worksites are unable to give true work based experiences, because of rules and regulations prohibiting students from doing work in many specialized training areas (i.e. sweeping floors vs. using tools to strip wires, etc....) Dick Overton agreed that our current rules and regulations for 16 and 17 year olds not only creates difficulty for apprenticeships but “spoils” the potential passion a student may have for a career area as the work is often downgraded to sweeping floors, unloading trucks, etc...

Action Item: contact your legislators regarding the rules/regulations for minors in the workplace.

Dominic Zanomi discussed Outliers book, opportunity being a key to success as well as meaningful work. Jim Collins, author of Good to Great and Grade by Choice was mentioned by Tim. St. Onge. In these books he speaks about how companies prepare leaders and emphasized that training people to want to help other people is extremely important.