

**WORKFORCE PARTNERSHP OF GREATER RHODE ISLAND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 11, 2008**

**Board Members**

**Everett Amaral**

**Vincent Balasco**

**Joseph Cannon\***

**Michael Cassidy\***

**Diane Cook\***

**Vanessa Cooley\***

**Bob Cooper**

**Joseph Crowley**

**Joan D'Agostino\***

**Joe DeSantis\***

**Joseph DesRoches\***

**Alexis Devine**

**Joseph DiPina\***

**Alan Durand**

**Cynthia Farrell**

**Raymond Filippone**

**Christine Grieco\***

**Paul Harden**

**John Iaderosa\***

**Diane Karcz**

**Steven Kitchin**

**Peter Koch**

**Dottie Mattiello\***

**Jane Nugent**

**Susan O'Donnell**

**Paul Ouellette**

**Fred Pendlebury**

**Raymond Pingitore**

**Betty Pleacher**

**Fred Ricci**

**Nancy Roderick**

**Scott Seaback**

**Edward Sneesby\***

**Pat Talin**

**Andrew Tyska**

**Johan Uvin\***

**Ernie Vergano\***

**Darrell Waldron\* Kimberly Weiss**

**Steven Wilson**

**Guests Present**

**John O'Hare**

**Marie DeRoche**

**Donna Chaput**

**Mary Ellen McQueeney**

**Mavis McGetrick**

**Elaina Goldstein**

**Staff Present**

**Dottie Miller**

**Nick Ucci**

**Arthur Jodoin**

**Carlos Ribeiro**

**Karen Waters**

**(\* denotes absent)**

**Call to Order and Minutes**

**With a quorum present, Chairman Steve Kitchin called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM and asked the members to review the minutes of the February 12, 2008 Board Meeting.**

**A motion was entered to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2008 WPGRI Board meeting.**

**VOTE: Joseph Crowley moved to approve the minutes. Pat Talin seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

**Chairman's Report**

**Chairman Steve Kitchin reported that he attended the NAWB Conference in Washington D.C. with Board member Paul Harden and**

**WPGRI Staff member Nick Ucci. He stated that the conference offered some very strong presentations, as well as some very weak presentations. He noted that he attended breakout sessions on WIA reauthorization and board development activities. Chairman Kitchin stated that the presentation by Daniel Pink was very powerful, as was a viewing of a short documentary on education, titled 2 Million Minutes. He asked Paul Harden and Nick Ucci for their comments on the conference and the documentary. Both individuals stated that the production was powerful and had relevance to the work of the Board. Chairman Kitchin also stated that he had attended a session exclusively designed to allow for an exchange between WIB Chairs and ETA Assistant Secretary Douglas Small and that he felt it was a good and open dialogue. He went on to report that he had learned of an interesting model focused on entrepreneurship that was supported with WIA funds and asked staff to research the potential of entrepreneurial training and working on a program model with RIEDC using WIA money. He also asked the staff to purchase the documentary 2 Million Minutes and schedule viewing times for Board members. Nick Ucci stated that he would email board members with a link to the documentary's webpage and arrange common viewing times.**

**Chairman Kitchin stated that WIA reauthorization was off the table for the year, but that both chambers of the Congress have set domestic spending limits above the President's level. He stated that he believed that national job losses would put pressure on the Congress**

**to act in a positive way toward WIA funding.**

**Chairman Kitchin stated that he had asked Board member Johan Uvin to give a presentation on the proposed regulations for high school proficiency-based graduation requirements and other educational restructuring regulations but that Johan had a scheduling conflict. Noting Johan Uvin's absence, Board member Joseph Crowley offered to summarize the proposed regulations and offer his thoughts on their impact. Joseph Crowley introduced the regulations and spoke to the history of the proposal. He noted that the regulations required students to demonstrate that they can use the information learned at school through a mandated research project and presentation; maintenance of a portfolio; and standardized exams. He also stated that test scores were designed to help administrators and educators evaluate the schools themselves. Dottie Miller noted that a proposed letter of support from the Board was included in Board member materials and added that the letter addressed previously stated concerns surrounding the proposed regulation's flexibility surrounding career and technical education. Joseph Crowley stated his belief that the letter was appropriate in its support for proficiency-based graduation requirements and the call for additional flexibility for students with barriers. Board member Bob Cooper suggested that the letter be revised to include language asking the Board of Regents to clarify the use of state assessment results for high school graduation, as written in section 3.3 of the proposed regulations.**

**A motion was entered to approve the Board's letter of support for the proposed regulations, with additional language asking the Board of Regents to clarify section 3.3 of the regulations.**

**VOTE: Bob Cooper moved to approve, Joseph Crowley seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

### **Executive Director's Report**

**Acting Executive Director Dottie Miller stated that drafts of the Corporate audits for FY05 and FY06 would be complete by the end of March and that an update on the audits would be provided at the April Board meeting.**

**Dottie Miller stated that Pat Fox of Starkweather & Shepley made a presentation to the Executive Committee on March 4th. She explained that the Executive Committee recommended that the existing policy at the current level of coverage be continued, and that coverage levels would be revisited in the coming year along with legal council. Dottie Miller also stated that WPGRI staff member Maureen Palumbo had been transferred to work on Rapid Response and Youth-related activities.**

**Dottie Miller stated that staff had been working on the Industry Skill Development Initiative (ISDI) RFP and noted that a draft of the RFP had been reviewed by the Strategic Development Committee. She**

also stated that the GWB's Planning & Evaluation and Strategic Investment Committees had endorsed funding Year Two of the ISDI to support the RFP. She added that the full GWBRI Board meeting was scheduled for March 13, and that she was optimistic that funding for the initiative would be approved, allowing the RFP to be issued. Dottie Miller noted that the ISDI was designed to build a pro-active Adult workforce development system that was driven by industry; connected to Youth programs; and in support of STEM initiatives statewide. She also stated that the staff had completed and submitted a grant application for the USDOL STEM initiative which, if funded, would develop STEM Coaches, Mentors, and other STEM-related supportive activities that would be integrated with and compliment the ISDI.

Dottie Miller completed her report by stating that one proposal had been received in response to the Board's RFP for Legal Services. She stated that this proposal would be reviewed by the Executive Committee and the results would be presented to the full board at the next meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Youth Council**

Chairman Steve Kitchin and Board members Alexis Devine, Vincent Balasco, and Ray Pingitore recused themselves.

**In the absence of Chairman Joe Cannon, Nick Ucci delivered the Youth Council report. Nick reviewed the proposed PY08 Youth proposals which had been negotiated in compliance with the Youth Council's recommendations. He noted that, if approved by the Board, the WPGRI had the potential to serve more than 1,700 Youth in PY08 for an average cost-per-client of \$1,499. Nick Ucci stated that this would represent an over-the-year increase of 600 Youth, while driving down the average cost-per-client by \$360. He added that an additional 30 WIA Youth would be served in PY08 with Board approval. He also stated that, if approved, the Youth Workforce System would have Youth Centers in Pawtucket, Woonsocket, East Bay, West Bay, and South County. He reviewed the contracts up for funding, including Youth Center, WIA, JDF Components, and JDF Summer Employment proposals. He added that the total amounts for the proposals being recommended for funding by the Youth Council fell in-line with the thresholds they had established.**

**A motion was made to approve the recommended contracts for PY08 Youth Workforce System contracts.**

**Board member Bob Cooper stated his concerns about one specific contract under Summer Employment services. Nick Ucci noted that, due to funding limitations and funding thresholds established by the Youth Council, that this contract could not be funded at this time, but should additional funding become available the proposal may be revisited.**

**VOTE: Pat Talin moved to approve, Fred Pendlebury seconded. All approved and the motion passed.**

**The recused Board members returned to the meeting.**

### **Board Development Committee**

**Committee Chair Paul Ouellette stated that Vina Leite had resigned from the Board. He introduced a letter from Chairman Steve Kitchin, included with Board member materials, thanking Ms. Leite for her commitment to the Board.**

### **Quality Assurance Committee**

**In the absence of Chairman Mike Cassidy, Nick Ucci delivered the Committee report. He stated that the Committee met on February 27th and received a presentation by Kathy Partington updating the members on the status of the One-Stop Centers, as well as the impact of the ISDI on the One-Stop System. He added that the Committee had begun looking at the annual awards to ensure that they are reflective of new initiatives and remained valued.**

### **Strategic Development Committee**

**Committee Chair Paul Harden introduced a summary of the STEM grant proposal submitted by the WPGRI to the USDOL. He also reviewed new data and publications produced by the RIDLT's LMI unit. Nick Ucci added that complete versions of the publications,**

along with a wealth of other data, were available at the LMI website.

### **Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

### **New Business**

Chairman Steve Kitchin introduced Elaina Goldstein from Rhodes to Independence. Elaina stated that her organization believed that social services for people with disabilities needed to be integrated with economic development efforts. She stated that the disabled have skills, but need assistance and access to career pathways in growth industries, and that ORS, the business community, and workforce development agencies should work together to train people where the jobs are. Elaina introduced a USDOL, Office of Disability Employment Policy, NTAR Leadership Center project that her organization hoped to apply for with the assistance of state agencies and the WPGRI. Chairman Steve Kitchin asked the staff to support Elaina in her efforts.

With no other business to be discussed, a motion was entered to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE:** Paul Ouellette moved to approve. Pat Talin seconded. All approved and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Nick Ucci**