

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
February 21, 2008 BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES ABSENT)

Mario Bueno	William McGowan*	Sandra Powell
Mia Caetano Johnson	Brandon Melton	Lorna Ricci *
Armeather Gibbs*	Sharon Moylan	Cathy Streker
Saul Kaplan	Robert Nangle	Martin Trueb*
Paul MacDonald	George Nee	Jack Warner
Joseph MarcAurele	Robert Paniccia	

STAFF: Michael Koback, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Maureen Mooney

GUESTS: Paul Harden, Johan Uvin, Ruth Ricciarelli, Michael Hogan, Fred Santaniello, John O'Hare, Lori Norris, Nick Ucci, Lisa D'Agostino, Joseph Cannon Jr., David Tremblay, Laura Hart, Christine Grieco, Kim Weiss, Gail Theriault

LOCATION: RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT), 1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI

With a quorum present, Chair J. MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A motion was entered to approve the January 17, 2008 Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes.

VOTE on motion to approve: J. Warner moved to approve, seconded by M. Caetano-Johnson. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve January 17, 2008 Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. January 17, 2008 minutes approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair MarcAurele asked board members to take note of the report entitled: "Strategies & Solutions: Activities & Investments Report for the Fiscal Years 2006-2008" which is in the meeting packets. He noted that he has been looking for this type of chronicle which notes the accomplishments of this board over the last few years. He indicated this report is a good roadmap of what has occurred and thanked M. Koback and his staff for the work done on this. He noted it is very well organized and well done. He then turned the meeting over to M. Koback for the Director's Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

M. Koback began his report by updating board members on the next Strategic Workforce Plan Steering meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, February 28th. He noted it is an all day meeting to be held at the Sheraton and will be facilitated by two consultants from the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW). The focus of this meeting is to further refine the plan and to move on to the next steps.

M. Koback reported that three of the Industry Partnerships are currently being assessed for year two funding. This includes partnerships in manufacturing, hospitality & tourism and the marine trades. Preliminary meetings have indicated that these partnerships are on target for year two funding. He noted that unfortunately the minority construction partnership is no longer a part of the partnership program. M. Koback informed the board that the Community College of RI (CCRI) withdrew from the partnership as the fiscal agent for valid reasons. However, M. Koback reported that another RFP will be issued for the construction industry as well as financial services. This RFP will be offered for 60 days which will provide an opportunity for groups to organize together to submit an RFP by the end of April. The goal is to get momentum going on these two partnerships.

M. Koback referenced the FY'08 Budget report which is based on 1/31/08 data. He indicated that this report shows the allocation priorities for FY 08. He noted more than \$14.7 million in allocations to date, and \$12.2 million in obligations leaving a balance of \$2.5 million for the rest of the year. This amount will be carried over next year if not obligated by June and will provide additional funding.

In response to questions from S. Powell, M. Koback further explained the funding categories of New Worker Training (workforce expansion for less than 10 employees) and Capacity Building (serves strategies for board development activities, technology and new systems development).

J. MarcAurele commented that the process for the strategic planning process has been accelerated and that this has been supported by S. Powell. He noted his goal is to bring the planning components down to 3-5 action items that can be accomplished. He also assured the board that this process will be moving faster as we move forward.

CONSENT AGENDA (ITEMS1-2)

M. Koback referred the board members to the consent agenda reporting it contains 2 items including:

1. WIA Consent Agenda: Two Workforce Investment Notices listed for Program Year '07 were issued: 1) Pursuant to policies regarding the US Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration's plan to rescind Program Year 2007 WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding resulting in a 2% reduction in original planning estimates. 2) Procedural modifications for local WIBs'; two-year plans regarding the addition of JDF funding and service levels.

2. Workforce Expansion Grant: The Strategic Investments Committee met on January 31st and endorsed staff's recommendation to award \$166,900 to Electric Boat at Quonset Point to train 200 new employees in various positions (outlined in attached summary sheet).

Chair MarcAurele asked if there were any questions or comments on the WIA Consent Agenda. Hearing none, Chairman MarcAurele entered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Items 1-2).

VOTE on motion to approve: B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by J. Warner. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve Consent Agenda (Items 1-2). All approved. Consent Agenda approved.

S.T.E.M. Presentation

David Cedrone is the PK-16 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program Manager for Project Making the Grade, an action plan developed by Governor Carcieri's Blue Ribbon Panel on Mathematics and Science Education. David reports to the Governor's PK-16 Council and is a member of the RIEDC Communications and Marketing Staff. He provided a presentation of the Rhode Island STEM Education Initiative. A copy of the presentation hand-out is on file.

Committee Reports

Chair MarcAurele asked board members if there were any committee reports.

Adult Education and Literacy

J. Warner referred to a recent Adult Education and Literacy meeting and the overall progress made with this initiative. He cautioned that this progress could be threatened if the infrastructure for programs at the RI Department of Education (RIDE) is not made whole. He noted difficult budget times, recent turnover and the need to fill existing vacancies in the operations in order to keep up the momentum with adult education programs. J. Warner indicated his report was a plea for advocacy about filling staffing vacancies in order to keep the current program moving forward.

Youth Development Committee

B. Melton reported that the Youth Development Committee would be meeting after the board meeting. There will be an update from Lori Norris on the RFP process. He noted a sizeable increase in providers due to an increase of funding in the amount of \$2.1 million by the GWB.

Board Development Committee

S. Moylan reported that the Board Development meeting is working on the logistics of the annual meeting. She noted that the invitation list is being developed and asked that board members submit to M. Koback the names of persons they would like included. She also noted the committee is working on obtaining a national speaker. She noted the format will be a breakfast meeting and will be held on the original date of June 26th.

With no other business to be discussed, Chairman MarcAurele entered a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Governor's Workforce Board.

VOTE on motion to approve: J. Warner moved to approve, seconded by P. MacDonald. All approved. Motion to adjourn passes.

VOTE to approve adjournment of Governor's Workforce Board meeting. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen F. Mooney