

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND**  
**September 11, 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	

**GWB STAFF:** Michael Koback, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

**DLT STAFF:** John O'Hare, Maureen Palumbo, Ben Copple, Laura Hart, Scott Greco, Connie Parks, Nick Ucci

**GUESTS:** Lisa DiRaimo, RIMTA; Susan Daly, IYRS; Heather Singleton, RI Hospitality; Cheryl DaCosta, Tech Collective; Ruth Ricciarelli, Center for Health Professions; Linda Katz, Poverty Institute; Robin Smith, CCRI; Michael Hogan, RI House of Representatives; Johan Uvin, RIDE; Wendy Mackie, My Turn; Robert Delaney, ILSR; Paul Harden, RIEDC; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate

**LOCATION:** Department of Labor & Training, conference room 73-1

**Welcome and Vice Chairman's Comments**

Vice Chair William McGowan welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned that the last meeting of the GWB was at the annual meeting in June. He acknowledged the positive outcome of that meeting and the hard work of GWB staff, Board Development Committee Chair, Sharon Moylan and committee members.

**6/26/08 Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Governor's Workforce Board annual meeting minutes of 6/26/08.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** S. Moylan moved to approve, seconded by R. Paniccia. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve, 2008 Governor's Workforce Board June 26, 2008 meeting minutes. All approved. June 26, 2008 meeting minutes approved.

**Director's Report**

M. Koback noted the work accomplished over the summer relating to the strategic workforce plan. He noted that workgroups met over the summer to work on the objectives and strategies of the plan. He mentioned the work done on the Business Retention and Expansion Initiative (BREI), a copy of which is available in the meeting packet.

M. Koback introduced Dan Brown, a new GWB Staff member who was employed in the Governor's Office and at RI EDC previously.

## **Consent Agenda**

Vice Chair McGowan reviewed the items contained on the Consent Agenda and asked for any discussion.

S. Powell mentioned that the effort has been ongoing to define how the Business Retention plan could best work for RI businesses, and how to make it distinct from the current workforce expansion plan. She noted that funding from the GWB provides an opportunity for business retention assistance for RI businesses. She referred to the presentation by Hope Global at the May GWB meeting as a prime example of a successful business retention strategy. S. Kaplan noted his support for the BREI and noted that it provides a tool to work together with companies that are already here in RI, that want to stay and grow.

G. Nee inquired about the total amount of funding for the Business Retention plan. M. Koback responded that \$75,000 has been budgeted for this current fiscal year.

Vice Chair McGowan recommended a motion to approve the five items on the consent agenda in total. (The Consent agenda is available in its entirety in the meeting packet)

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

**VOTE** to approve, Consent Agenda. All approved. Consent agenda items approved.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Youth Development Committee**

Vice Chair McGowan asked B. Melton, Chair of the Youth Development Committee, to report on the successful results of the summer youth program. B. Melton mentioned that a summer showcase was held in August to celebrate the hard work of the summer's youth participants. The showcase accommodated 70 youth exhibitors, and featured nearly 30 participant-created displays that highlighted their programs' positive impact.

B. Melton also reported that a significantly larger number of youth were served this summer. He noted that the number served is in the range of 4,000- 5,000 youth which is up from 2300 from last year and from 350-400 the year before. B. Melton commented that the quality of the programs has improved as well noting that many of the agencies have instituted an educational component. He noted the excellent cooperation among the 3 workforce boards; Workforce Solutions of Providence /Cranston, the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI and the Governor's Workforce Board.

Vice Chair McGowan acknowledged the work of the original committee, which he pointed out M. Caetano-Johnson chaired, that worked to establish this collaboration among the local workforce boards. He noted this collaboration was the impetus to achieve these tremendous results. B. Melton reported that Lifespan hired 98 youth for their summer program and that the retention rate of this group was high.

S. Powell mentioned the ongoing pilot project with the Cranston school district which is intended to embed the work being done with the K-12 committee by connecting the district with the youth system. She noted this project involves Cranston West as well as the New England Laborer's/Cranston Public Schools Construction Academy.

### **Adult Education and Literacy Committee**

In J. Warner's absence, Johan Uvin provided a brief overview of the Shared Youth Vision Initiative, indicating that the GWB recently approved an award of \$20,000 to RIDE for this effort. This funding is leveraged with other agency partner funds to pilot an innovative case management approach linked to RI's Youth Development Centers. He also reviewed the 3 year impact of the Adult Education program noting that since FY 06, the support of the GWB, as well as interagency collaboration, has been crucial to its success.

G. Nee credited Johan Uvin for the success of the Adult Education program and indicated this program has been successful for several reasons. First, the funding has been expended in a productive manner and additional funds were not requested without a foundation in place. He stated that additional instructional hours were provided which assisted in moving people into employment opportunities based on a higher skill level. In addition to this, G. Nee noted that J. Uvin successfully created benchmarks, professionalized teaching standards and adopted an approach that clarifies expectations and requires each agency to meet these newly established standards. He also noted that J. Uvin has ensured that RIDE is working collaboratively with the agencies with the goal of improving their programs.

P. MacDonald acknowledged the excellent leadership of J. Warner and J. Uvin in achieving the positive results of the adult education program.

### **Strategic Investments Committee Executive Committee**

Vice Chair McGowan reported that both committees met this week and that information on the results of these meetings is part of the consent agenda.

### **Planning and Evaluation Committee**

Vice Chair McGowan reported that a significant amount of work has been accomplished on the strategic plan. He mentioned that several focus group meetings have occurred and he thanked everyone for their participation. He noted that staff members from DLT, EDC, and GWB have been collaboratively engaged in the process. He indicated we are at a critical stage in the process and that the Strategic Plan should be on the agenda for approval by the board at the November meeting. Vice Chair McGowan invited all interested parties to attend a Planning & Evaluation workgroup meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> to review the goals, strategies and objectives of the Strategic Plan.

### **RI Marine Trades Skills Gap Analysis**

Susan Daly from the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS) and Lisa DiRaimo from the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association (RIMTA) presented the RI Marine Trades Skills gap analysis to the board. Included in the meeting packet is a copy of the skills gap analysis as well as a handout of the presentation.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, Vice Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** R. Nangle moved to approve, seconded by S. Powell.  
All approved. Motion to adjourn passes.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen F. Mooney