

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
January 22, 2009 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES ABSENT)

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

GWB STAFF: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

DLT STAFF: Laura Hart, Mary Ellen McQueeny Lally, Lori Norris, Christine Grieco, David Tremblay, Mavis McGetrick

GUESTS: Malcom Baxter, United Way, Jim Glover, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, Ruth Riccarelli, HARI, Fred Santaniello, NEIT, Paul Harden, RIEDC, Michael Hogan, RI House Policy Office

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

Chairman's Comments

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the draft Strategic Workforce Plan was presented yesterday at a meeting at the Crowne Plaza and thanked board members; Mario Bueno, William McGowan, Sharon Moylan, Paul MacDonald and Jack Warner for their participation. He indicated this meeting was well attended and well represented by the stakeholders involved in the strategic planning process. Chair MarcAurele reported there will be a brief presentation later in the meeting, followed by a vote.

Chair MarcAurele commented on the state of the current economy in relation to the financial industry. He offered there was a renewed sense of hope with the administration of the new President and the proposed economic stimulus package. He noted his encouragement, as a representative of the financial service industry, that there will be funds available for not only infrastructure projects bringing people back to work, but also for workforce training and development. He noted his concurrence with some economists who believe that job creation and consumer stimulation will drive economic growth.

Meeting Minutes

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve the Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes of 11/13/08.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by C. Streker. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve 2008 Governor's Workforce Board November 13, 2008 meeting minutes. All approved. November 13, 2008 meeting minutes approved.

Acting Executive Director's Report

J. O'Hare reported on the RFP authorized by the Strategic Investments Committee providing funding for the Comprehensive Workforce Training grants. He indicated there was a good response to this RFP, released on December 22nd, as shown by the attendance of 110 companies at the pre-proposal conference on January 13th. J. O'Hare indicated that these grants require a 50% cash match from the companies that participate and that there is \$2 million in funds that will train 4000 workers. He commented that 100 proposals are anticipated to be received by the February 6th deadline.

J. O'Hare mentioned the impending release of a green RFP which has been authorized by the Strategic Investments committee. The goal of this RFP is to develop an additional industry partnership in the green sector. He reported that the RFP has been prepared, drafted and vetted through various agencies such as the United Way. A successful partnership in the green sector will add to the current 7 Industry Partners that we have currently.

J. O'Hare echoed Chair MarcAurele's report on the well attended presentation of the Strategic Workforce Plan and added that the response was favorable for the adoption of the draft plan. He noted that the board will be voting on the draft plan today, and that a public hearing is scheduled for February 18th as approved by the Planning and Evaluation Committee. He reported that the Plan will be revised based on comments received from the public hearing. The board will give their final approval at the March board meeting and then the plan will go to the Governor for signature.

J. O'Hare reported that DLT has appointed Donna Treglia as Acting Administrator of the State Workforce Investment Office, which is responsible for the oversight, monitoring and policy of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Consent Agenda (Items 1-7)

Chair MarcAurele noted the items on the consent agenda for board members review. He mentioned that board members can request items be removed from the consent agenda and moved to the regular agenda. He asked for any comments, questions or issues with any of the consent agenda items.

Hearing none, Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by P. MacDonald. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the Consent Agenda. All approved. Consent Agenda approved.

Administrative Business

Chair MarcAurele reported that Saul Kaplan has resigned from the GWB as he has stepped down from his position as Director of the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to take a new position. He clarified that the seat that S. Kaplan occupied on the board was a business representative seat which does not automatically revert over to the Director of the RIEDC. Chair MarcAurele reported that Michael Saul has been named the Interim Director of RIEDC and that a committee has been formed to review the overall structure of the RIEDC. He reported that this committee will be involved in the hiring of the new RIEDC Director and commented that it makes sense to hold off on filling the GWB board position until decisions are made on the Director's position.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to accept the resignation of Saul Kaplan from the Governor's Workforce Board.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by P. MacDonald. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to accept the resignation of Saul Kaplan. All approved. Resignation letter of Saul Kaplan accepted.

Definition of Work Ready

B. Melton reported that the Youth Development Committee (YDC) has been working on the definition of work readiness. He noted that a group of 20 individuals met over a period of 6-8 months this past year to work on the work readiness definition as well as determining the skills, competencies and behaviors an individual needs to be ready to work (both youth and adults). The committee was made up of a cross section of individuals including representation from the RI Department of Education (RIDE), administrators and teachers from various school systems, and representatives from business and industry partnerships in the field of healthcare, boat works, hospitality and others.

B. Melton indicated that the charge to the committee was to develop a definition of work readiness, skills, competencies and behaviors by December 31, 2008. This definition was brought to the YDC committee this past November and approved. An additional goal is to develop a curriculum that would be applicable for both college bound students and those entering the workforce directly out of high school, which would be validated by employers.

B. Melton reported that the work ready definition was reviewed by Johan Uvin, Director of Adult Education for the State and Commissioner Jack Warner.

L. Norris provided an overview of the Cranston pilot program, relating how the work readiness definition can be utilized within the school system. She noted that this pilot program curriculum is supported by RIDE, and is mapped to the content standards and grade span expectations. She reported that more than 400 students are enrolled in this 4 credit elective in the Cranston High School, noting that more than 90 students are in paid unsubsidized employment. She also mentioned that this pilot program will be evaluated by Dr. Roy Seitsinger of the RIDE.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve the Definition of Work Ready.

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

VOTE to approve the Definition of Work Ready. All approved. Work Ready Definition approved.

Draft Strategic Plan

Chair MarcAurele reported that D. Francis and D. Tremblay will be presenting the draft strategic plan in a concise format. A PowerPoint handout of the presentation is available in the board meeting packet.

After the presentation, J. O'Hare provided an overview of the USDOL guidance on the one year extension of the current State Title 1B WIA and Wagner Peyser State Plan, as it related

to the release of the Strategic Workforce Plan. He also reviewed the timetable for the public hearing and final approvals.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve the Draft Strategic Plan.

VOTE on motion to approve: S. Powell moved to approve, seconded by W. McGowan. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the Draft Strategic Plan. All approved. Draft Strategic Plan approved.

Employment Security Advisory Council

S. Powell provided an update on the Employment Security Advisory Council (ESAC), reporting that the Governor appointed the following members to this council:

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| Representing employers: | Nancy Roderick, Concordia Roland Benjamin, LFI International |
| Representing labor: | William McGowan, IBEW Local 2323 Paul MacDonald, Providence Central Federated Council |

S. Powell reported that by virtue of their respective positions the following will serve on this council:

Dr Arthur Corvese, Chair of the House Committee on Labor
Paul Fogarty, Chair of the Senate Committee on Labor
Michael Saul, Executive Director of the RI Economic Policy Council (and RIEDC)
Sandra Powell, Director of the Department of Labor & Training

S. Powell noted that the council will assist the Department of Labor & Training in formulating policies and solving problems relating to the administration of employment security law. She mentioned that an initial meeting will be scheduled soon and that board members are welcome to provide input to this council.

Adjournment

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

VOTE on motion to approve: R. Nangle moved to approve, seconded by B. Melton. All approved. Motion to adjourn passes.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen F. Mooney