

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND**  
**March 12, 2009 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
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, Donna Treglia, Michael Hayes

**GUESTS:** Malcom Baxter, United Way, Ruth Riccarelli, HARI, Fred Santaniello, NEIT, Paul Harden, RIEDC, Ray Choiniere, RI House Policy Office, David Cedrone, RIEDC, Linda Katz, Poverty Institute, Robert Kalaskowski, Senate Policy Office

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

**Chairman's Comments**

Vice Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted the upcoming approval of the Strategic Workforce Plan as a key item on the agenda.

**Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes of January 22, 2009.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** M. Trueb moved to approve, seconded by S. Powell. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve January 22, 2009 Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. January 22, 2009 meeting minutes approved.

**Acting Executive Director's Report**

J. O'Hare reported that RI will receive approximately \$17 million in workforce development funds as part of the Federal stimulus package. He noted this funding is designated as Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds in two categories aiming to serve the long term unemployed and dislocated workers; and youth for work readiness skills and job readiness training. He noted that DLT will receive \$1,500,000 in funding for re-employment services through Wagner Peyser. J. O'Hare reported there are planning and policy requirements for modifications to the Wagner Peyser and WIA plans which need to be made by June 30<sup>th</sup>. He noted this would require an additional public hearing and approvals by the local and state boards as well as modifications to local plans.

J. O'Hare reported that a pre-proposal conference was held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Green Technology RFP, an additional industry partnership sector and that 35 organizations attended. The proposals are due on April 10<sup>th</sup>. J. O'Hare reported that the funding for the Incumbent Worker Training grants was approved by the Strategic Investments Committee and that the list

of funded and unfunded organizations is in the meeting packet. 105 companies applied, 78 were funded for a total of \$2,055,000 and that approximately 6,600 workers will be trained. J. O'Hare reported that Coffey Consultants will be starting work in April on the review of the Apprenticeship Program. He noted that the work should be completed within 3-5 months and that the results will be brought back to the GWB when the work is complete.

As a final item, J. O'Hare reported that a press release would be going out about the Customized Training Funding available through the two local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBS). The two WIBS are releasing up to \$500,000 to RI businesses to finance customized or on the job training programs for new hires. He indicated this initiative is financed by the federal Workforce Investment Act.

### **Approval of Strategic Workforce Plan**

Vice-Chair McGowan asked for a motion to approve the Strategic Workforce Plan, noting that the motion to approve is contingent upon final approval of the plan by the Governor. He noted the listing of the 120 advisors in the plan and thanked everyone who participated in the development and progression of the plan.

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

**VOTE** to approve the Strategic Workforce Plan. All approved. Strategic Workforce Plan approved.

### **GWB By-Laws**

Vice Chair McGowan asked Sharon Moylan, Chair of the Board Development committee to present the by-laws for approval by the board. S. Moylan indicated that the by-laws were reviewed, that there were no changes and asked for a motion to approve the by-laws noting this is an annual requirement.

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

**VOTE** to approve the GWB By-Laws. All approved. GWB By-Laws approved.

### **Consent Agenda (Items 1-7)**

Vice Chair McGowan noted the items on the consent agenda for board members review and asked L. Norris to provide an overview of the World of Work (WOW) Project.

L. Norris referred to the proposal in the meeting packet entitled: World of Work 18-Month Replication Project Proposal. She acknowledged the support of the GWB for the Cranston School Pilot Project Initiative and reported that more than 400 students were enrolled in the for - credit elective and that originally the pilot was to serve 235 students. She reported that 166 youth have obtained paid, unsubsidized employment in the community and that Dr. Roy Seitsinger of the RI Department of Education (RIDE) will be providing an evaluation of the program.

L. Norris noted the intent of this request for funding is to expand this pilot and replicate it in 3 additional school districts in a rural, urban and suburban community. This expansion will provide flexibility of the model in a wider variety of communities, including those with more diverse student needs, transportation challenges and other factors in order for this program to be effective on a state-wide basis. L. Norris noted that the goal is to embed workforce development skills into the high school proficiency based graduation requirements. She indicated that the Cranston School Department will continue with this expanded project in the

role of train the trainer and that the Cranston students will be followed up after a year to determine specific outcomes. L. Norris mentioned that Dr. Seitsinger could possibly evaluate the replication phase, and that this would be the final phase of funding support for the WOW model. She noted that the evaluation would be helpful in providing information to other districts in order to integrate WOW into their schools in a sustainable way.

Vice Chair McGowan reported that questions relating to the Workforce Expansion Grants (Item 4 on the consent agenda) that were raised at the Strategic Investments Committee had been addressed by P. Harden (RIEDC).

With no other comments or discussion Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by J. Warner. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

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

### **Committee Updates**

Vice Chair McGowan asked committee chairs for updates. S. Moylan reported that the Board Development Committee is planning for the annual meeting, which is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>. She indicated that quotes for the facility were being solicited and that information on the event location should be available at the next board meeting.

J. Warner noted that the Adult Education Literacy Committee recently sponsored an event, noting that the Governor was the key speaker and Director Powell the Master of Ceremonies. He indicated the event was a celebration of the great strides made in the adult education system. J. Warner mentioned that going forward the charge will be to review expanding capacity as well as quality enhancements indicating that these issues will be the subject of discussions for the committee going forward.

### **Adjournment**

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

**VOTE on motion to approve:** G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. 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