

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
October 18, 2012

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES NOT PRESENT)

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Mario Bueno | Juana Horton (S)* | Robert Nangle (S) |
| Robin Coia | Constance A. Howes | George Nee |
| Ray DiPasquale (S)* | Paul MacDonald | Cathy Streker |
| Charles J. Fogarty (S)* | William McGowan | Martin Trueb |
| Deborah Gist (S)* | Brandon Melton | Pheamo Witcher* |
| Mike Grey | Sharon Moylan (S) | |

Governor Lincoln D. Chafee and David Abbott, Deputy Commissioner, RIDE were in attendance.

(S) denotes State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) only

GWB Staff: Rick Brooks, Nancy Olson, Elizabeth Jardine, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

DLT Staff: Sue Chomka, Marie DeRoche, Diane Gagne, Diane Vendetti, Carlos Ribeiro, David Tremblay, Lisa D'Agostino

Guests: Linda Katz, Economic Progress Institute; Mark Perrotti, Jim Glover, Richard Beneduce, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston; Malcolm Baxter, BIS; Philip Less, RIDE; Jen Cornwell, RIMTA; Heather Singleton, RI Hospitality; Alaina Johnson, Stepping Up; Peter Brown; Kayleigh Pratt, Senate Fiscal; Cliff Monteiro, Cynthia Scott, Michael Van Leesten, Richardson Ogide, OIC; Jill Holloway, Adult Education Professional Development Center; Michael Hogan, RI House Policy Office; Nancy Miller, RIC Outreach; Ruth Gobeille, RIMES; Robert Kalaskowski, RI Senate; representative from HCA (name not clear); Abby Swienton, Governor's Office, Adrian Boney, Rhode Island Foundation.

Location: Providence Career & Technical Academy, 41 Fricker Street, Providence

Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Howes called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Governor's Workforce Board meeting.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the Governor's Workforce Board's meeting held on September 20, 2012.

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

VOTE to approve Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. September 20, 2012 meeting minutes approved.

Per Chair Howes' request, Sean Fontes, Executive Counsel, asked for declarations on any of the voting matters before the board for conflicts of interest. He explained that board members should avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest according to the RI State Code of Ethics. He stated that board members who disclose a conflict should both abstain from the vote and recuse themselves from any discussion. He mentioned that a conflict of interest disclosure form, which is available from GWB staff, should be completed.

Chair's Comments

Chair Howes provided an overview of the recent board retreat noting the presentation of reports by John Simmons of the RI Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC) and Neil Steinberg of the Rhode Island Foundation. She spoke of the Biennial Plan recommendations which she noted will come before the board for a vote. Chair Howes acknowledged the work of the board, GWB and DLT staff, stakeholder groups, consultant Sarah Griffen and other retreat participants in the formation of the recommendations. She indicated the report will provide clear goals, objectives and action steps which assist the board in making recommendations for funding strategies.

Chair Howes noted that the report is currently a draft and highlighted some of the key findings;

- The extent the state is dependent on federal funding and the declining federal funds available for workforce development

- The 5 to 1 mismatch in the number of jobs open vs those unemployed

- The need for shared data and for the alignment of efforts and resources moving forward

- The importance of developing workforce education and training programs that prepare workers with the skills employers need

- Marketing the EmployRI website to increase participation by employers and job seekers

- Identification of a strong career pathways strategy in the workforce system

Executive Director's Report

Chair Howes asked Rick Brooks to present the Executive Director's Report. R. Brooks reported that after submission of the Biennial Plan work will begin on allocating categories for funding and the alignment of strategies. He mentioned the Express Grants, noting these rolling grants were a way to expedite training funds to the employers. He mentioned that \$500,000 was previously allocated to these grants and that they will be launched during the month of November. He stated that these grants will continue to be offered through the fiscal year as long as funds last.

R. Brooks spoke of the continuing work associated with the Jobs Initiative providing short-term training, fellowships and hiring incentives based on recent pilots. He indicated this initiative targets unemployed Rhode Islanders to move them into jobs. He mentioned the funding opportunity for Innovation grants which are meant to support partnerships among employers, education providers, service providers and the public workforce system.

R. Brooks stated that several board members participated in the RI Public Occurrence Forums and in the Re-Invent RI series offered by the Rhode Island Foundation, noting

these activities are consistent with the work of the GWB. R. Brooks also acknowledged the strong level of interest the Governor has taken both with the work of the biennial plan and of the board, and noted his attendance at the board retreat for the entire session.

Approval of Biennial Plan Recommendations

R. Brooks reviewed the handout entitled "Biennial Employment & Training Plan Major Priorities for FY2014 – FY2015". He provided an overview of the process behind the plan including outcomes from the board retreat and the two workgroups where the priorities and actions steps were developed. He spoke of the work of the general assembly, the GWB and DLT staff and Biennial Advisory Group in the formation of the plan. He indicated the board will be asked to adopt the plan recommendations to be incorporated into the final Biennial Plan. A general discussion followed.

Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the Biennial Plan recommendations as presented.

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

VOTE to approve the Biennial Plan recommendations. All approved. Biennial Plan recommendations approved.

Chair Howes welcomed Governor Chafee to the meeting. Governor Chafee spoke of the work done at the recent GWB board retreat and of the priorities determined by the Biennial Employment & Training Plan. He noted the importance of interagency cooperation, employer partnership and further development of career pathways. Governor Chafee noted the importance of integrating career and technical education across the state and of work readiness skills. The Governor commended the board on their work at the retreat.

Consent Agenda – State Workforce Investment Board

Chair Howes referred to the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) consent agenda noting it contained WIN:12-01 Adult and Dislocated Worker Allocations for PY2012. She stated this issuance transmits the PY2012/FY 2013 split for Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs. Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

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

VOTE to approve the consent agenda. All approved. Consent agenda approved.

Committee Chair Reports

Youth Development Committee

Chair Howes asked Robin Coia to provide a report on the Youth Development Committee. R. Coia stated that the committee met last month and was given an update on the summer youth employment program by Carlos Ribeiro and Anne Walsh. She indicated it was a major success and mentioned the additional TANF funding allocated by the Department of Human Services (DHS). She spoke of the suggestion offered by the youth managers to consider funding requests earlier in the year for more planning time for programs. She indicated that part of the 2013 RFP will include an incentive piece for business to hire youth.

Strategic Investments & Evaluation

Chair Howes asked William McGowan to provide a report on the Strategic Investment & Evaluation Committee. W. McGowan reported that the committee met on October 2nd and Diane Gagne of Business Affairs provided an update on the financial analysis for FY12 and FY13. He indicated that the committee was given an update on the Incumbent Worker Training Express Grants, the GWB Jobs Initiative and the Adult Education Professional Development Center.

Employer Committee

Chair Howes asked Martin Trueb to provide a report on the Employer Committee. M. Trueb reported that both he and Chair Howes attended a recent meeting of the Newport Chamber of Commerce. He indicated that chamber members were receptive to the message provided about the mission and work of the GWB. He noted a lack of awareness of the part of the chambers on workforce development services in the state. He stated that many employers indicated they did not have staff dedicated to take advantage of current grant programs. M. Trueb stated that the Employer Committee will speak to the Employer Advisory Group in its first meeting about the upcoming Express Grants and the need for work readiness for prospective employees along with other selected topics.

Presentation: Providence Career and Technical Academy Overview

Chair Howes introduced Luke Driver, District Director of Career & Technical Education at the Providence Career & Technical Academy (PCTA), who provided an overview of the academy. L. Driver presented information on the kindergarten to career curriculum, career clusters and pathways, and CTE programs of study. He spoke about broader competencies which included an introduction to SKILLS USA and the results of several competitions of PCTA students. He spoke about Industry entrustments relating this to a partnership with the Skyline Technical Fund (Worcester MA) and the Providence Promise Technical Fund (OIC of Rhode Island, Inc). He ended the presentation with an overview of opportunities for collaboration.

Adjournment

With no further business, Chair Howes asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: P. MacDonald moved to approve. W. McGowan seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney

A tour of the PCTA was led by Luke Driver for those interested and able to attend.

*GWB Board Meeting
10-18-12*