

**Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investment Committee Meeting
September 8, 2008**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, William McGowan,
Martin Trueb, Brandon Melton
Committee Members absent: Armeather Gibbs, George Nee, Lorna Ricci
GWB Staff present: Michael Koback, David Francis, Dan Brown,
Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: John O'Hare, Connie Parks, Erica Reed, Kim Weiss,
Scott Greco, Armand Tessaglia
Others Present: Paul Harden, Johan Uvin

Call to Order

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the funding request listed on the agenda.

Minutes of 7/23/08

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of July 23, 2008 of the Governor's Workforce Board RI (GWBRI) Strategic Investment Committee. He then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: B. Melton moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

Funding Requests

Rhode Island Shared Youth Vision Initiative

Chair MarcAurele asked Johan Uvin of the RI Department of Education (RIDE) to present the funding request for the Rhode Island Shared Youth Vision Initiative. J. Uvin provided an overview of the initiative's funding history explaining the federal and state grant resources available as well as the need for contributions of agency partners to help offset the costs of project management. He indicated this is a one-time only request which represents a co-investment. These resources will support the coordination and project management work related to implementing a pilot for 50-70 youth. This pilot consists of testing a model for agencies that serve at-risk youth to work together in a different way to increase the amount and quality of services that youth can access. This pilot will assist in making services more readily available as well as increasing workforce attachment.

Chair MarcAurele inquired if additional funding would be needed should the pilot go forward. J. Uvin indicated he did not anticipate the need for any new resources if the pilot is successful. He mentioned that RIDE, and several other agencies, may have discretionary resources available which could be put into the budget. He noted this initiative could be attractive to the foundation community.

With no further discussion, Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$20,000.

VOTE: M. Trueb moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

Business Retention

M. Koback provided an overview of the RI Business Retention and Expansion Initiative (BREI) indicating it was designed to retain and sustain business growth and employment in Rhode Island. He acknowledged that Rhode Island businesses are confronted both by global and regional competition, changing markets and demographics and may require assistance in the form of targeted services and financial resources to retain their viability and growth potential. He mentioned Hope Global was a local company who received business retention and expansion assistance last year. M. Koback noted that staff members from DLT, GWB and EDC met over the summer to solidify the process and criteria for this initiative. He noted that the policy and intent of the plan is solid, but that slight changes could be made going forward. He reviewed the contents of the BREI packet and indicated that the total amount of funding set aside for this year is \$75,000.

Chair MarcAurele emphasized that if the company is not viable we should not be recommending funding and that the focus should be on expanding business and looking for alternatives. He mentioned that it is incumbent upon the company to be able to articulate the purpose of the requested funding. Regarding the utilization of consultants as part of the BREI, he noted that a potential consultant could verify the company's financial viability and determine it's capability of executing the money allotted by the grant.

In summary, M. Koback noted that the BREI should be viewed as a process rather than primarily a funding mechanism.

With no further discussion, Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the Rhode Island Business Retention and Expansion Initiative.

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

Budget Update

M. Koback noted that the budget was included in the meeting packet and noted no significant changes other than 2 Workforce Expansion grants. There was a brief discussion on the budget but there were no voting items.

Other Business

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

VOTE: M. Trueb moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9: 10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney