

**Governor's Workforce Board RI  
Strategic Investment Committee Meeting  
April 15, 2009**

**Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members present:	William McGowan, Vice Chair, Brandon Melton, Armeather Gibbs, George Nee
Committee Members absent:	Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, Lorna Ricci, Martin Trueb
GWB Staff present:	John J. O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, David Francis
DLT Staff present:	Lori Norris
Others Present:	The Honorable David Cicilline, Thomas Brady, Johan Uvin, Paul Harden, Bert Cooper, Marguerite McLaughlin, David Cedrone, Robert Ricci

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda items. He thanked Mayor Cicilline and Superintendent Thomas Brady for attending the meeting.

**Minutes of 3/5/09**

Vice Chair McGowan asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 3/5/09 of the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Strategic Investments Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

**VOTE:** G. Nee moved to approve. A. Gibbs seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

**Funding Request: Second Day Initiative**

Vice Chair McGowan noted the funding request for the Second Day Initiative and reported that this initiative was endorsed by the GWB Youth Development Committee. He indicated that the pilot initiative is designed to expand the capacity of career and technical education programs to serve primarily out of school youth and young adults. Vice Chair McGowan asked Mayor Cicilline and Superintendent Thomas Brady to provide further information.

Mayor Cicilline emphasized the urgency in creating opportunities for young people as they enter into the pathways of careers that are sustainable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He mentioned that the completion of the new state-of-the-art Providence Career and Technical Academy provides a unique opportunity to develop programming for at risk youth and young adults. Mayor Cicilline acknowledged the partnership with the City of Providence, the Providence School Department, the RI Department of Education, and Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston. This unique partnership and the new facilities provide an opportunity to address the educational requirements, job training and skills development needed for students to access jobs. He indicated the long range goals is to replicate this project around the state and nationally.

Superintendent Brady noted the importance of providing outreach to youth ages 17-24 and adults to receive instruction and guidance for career opportunities. He indicated that programs in construction, graphic arts and technology as well as modules for English language learners are proposed. He reported that this initiative will begin as a demonstration model, followed by a pilot program with the possibility of expansion after evaluation and review.

Vice Chair W. McGowan asked for a motion to approve the funding in the amount of \$657,504 for the Second Day Initiative, noting this funding would be provided over a three year period.

**VOTE:** G. Nee moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

### **Funding Request: City of Providence Prisoner Reentry**

Vice Chair McGowan noted the funding request for the Providence Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative, a proposal aimed at reducing recidivism among ex-offenders returning to targeted Providence neighborhoods through transitional job programming. He asked Mayor Cicilline and Bert Cooper, Director of Pathways to Opportunity, to provide further information on the funding request.

B. Cooper indicated that leading partners in this effort include the City of Providence, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, the Department of Labor and Training, the United Way of Rhode Island, the Department of Corrections, and other members of the Providence Re-Entry Steering Committee. He noted they would seek to include representatives from relevant GWB Industry Partnerships to align this work with relevant sectors such as construction and green technologies.

B. Cooper reported that the GWB investment of \$100,000 is part of the matching funds required by Pathways to Opportunity to apply for a \$1,000,000 federal grant. The federal grant funding would enable them to offer a larger demonstration project which would include community based case management, transitional housing, improved service coordination, and evaluation.

Vice Chair McGowan asked for a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the City of Providence Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative. He noted this was funding was contingent on the receipt of funds from the federal grant.

**VOTE:** G. Nee moved to approve. B. Melton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

### **Funding Request: LPN Initiative**

Vice Chair McGowan introduced Marguerite McLaughlin of Quality Partners of Rhode Island and asked her to provide further information on the funding request for the Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) Initiative.

M. McLaughlin reported that as a result of the Industry Partnership Skills Gap Study, a need was identified for an LPN training-career path. She noted there is currently not a formally designated LPN program in the state and that LPN's serve an important role in nursing homes throughout the state. She indicated that the intent of the LPN Initiative is to develop alternative LPN credential programs within Rhode Island's career and technical centers starting with Chariho Career and Technical Center. It is anticipated this could be followed with programs at the William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School in Lincoln. The program will align with the standards set forth by the RI Department of Health. She mentioned the trade association indicates there are 150-250 positions for LPN's with a starting wage of \$26.00 per hour.

Vice Chair McGowan asked for a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$96, 538 for the LPN Initiative.

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve. G. Nee seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

**Funding Request: STEM Teacher Externship**

Vice Chair McGowan asked David Cedrone of the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to present the funding request for the STEM Teacher Externship program. D. Cedrone stated he represents the Governor's PK-16 council and is the Governor's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) program manager. He indicated this program is run through RIEDC and is one of the initiatives under Project Making the Grade. He reported that a successful pilot project was run last summer and that many companies are interested in placing teachers this year. He indicated that employer contributions are diminishing due to the current economic climate and is requesting funding from the GWB to assist with this effort this summer. The request to the GWB is for \$25,000 to supplement company sponsorships of STEM teacher externships for the summer of 2009. D. Cedrone noted that this is a one year request and does not intend to come back to the GWB for future funding, emphasizing the importance of organizations in sponsoring the externships.

Vice Chair McGowan asked for a motion to approve funding for the STEM Teacher Externship in the amount of \$25,000

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve. G. Nee seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

**Funding Request: CCRI 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Commission**

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

**Other Business**

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

**VOTE:** B. Melton moved to approve. G. Nee seconded the motion.  
The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney