

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting
June 4, 2009

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: William McGowan, Vice Chair, Brandon Melton, Martin Trueb, George Nee
Committee Members absent: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, Lorna Ricci, Armeather Gibbs
GWB Staff present: John J. O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, David Francis, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Lori Norris
Others Present: Johan Uvin, Paul Harden

Call to Order

Vice Chair McGowan called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda items.

Minutes of 4/15/09

Vice Chair McGowan asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 4/15/09 of the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Strategic Investments Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

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

Funding Request: FY2010 Adult Education

Vice Chair McGowan asked Johan Uvin to provide further information on the funding requests for adult education programs.

J. Uvin reported that the request in the amount of \$4,640,000 represents the 3rd and last year of the funding cycle for FY2008-FY2010. He noted that this funding includes the continued support of the Professional Development Center, the Interagency Demonstration project on Aquidneck Island (Newport Skills Alliance) and the Urban One Stop Career Center Literacy Initiatives which provide opportunities for online learning. J. Uvin reported that this funding includes resources to support performance bonus payments for agencies that have exceeded federal, state and local agency targets. He noted the change of status for the Urban One Stop Career Center Literacy Initiative from demonstration project to grant status and the recommendation to increase funding to \$100,000 from \$50,000 to allow for increased service capacity. He indicated that the Urban One Stop Literacy Initiatives in Pawtucket and Woonsocket would remain in demonstration project status and that funding would be conditional upon meeting specific milestones. He noted that the Newport Skills Alliance would change from demonstration project to grant status and that \$125,000 would be allocated.

With no further discussion on the request for FY2010 Adult Education programs, Vice Chair W. McGowan asked for a motion to approve the funding in the amount of \$4,640,000.

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

J. Uvin provided information on FY 2010 funding for several challenge grants which would provide seed funding for the development of system components related to strategies deemed critical by the strategic plan of the GWB. He reported on a request for \$75,000 to test and evaluate the use of technology-based college preparation services for adults in transition to post secondary education/training focused on health care through a partnership with Quality Partners, the RI Transition to College Initiative and the Health Care Learning Network. He indicated this funding would be used as a challenge grant to generate an equal amount in co-investments.

Vice Chair W. McGowan asked for a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$75,000 contingent upon the receipt of an equal co-investment of funding.

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

J. Uvin reported on a \$50,000 challenge grant for the Rhode Island Welcome Back Center and the One Stop Career Centers to further formalize and develop the coordination of services and expansion to serve foreign-born professionals in an additional sector to be deemed critical to the Rhode Island economy.

Vice Chair W. McGowan asked for a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$50,000 contingent upon the receipt of an equal co-investment of funding.

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

J. Uvin provided further information on a one-time co-investment of \$120,000 with the RI Department of Education (RIDE) and others to develop contextualized curricula for adult education. After some discussion, it was decided that this project would be deferred with the anticipation of funding through federal stimulus funds.

J. Uvin provided an overview of "A Shared Vision for Youth" which is a 24-Month Replication Project Proposal. The request for the funding of this project is \$500,000. This funding request was referred to the GWB Youth Development Committee (YDC) which will meet on June 10, 2009 and then to the Strategic Investments Committee at their July meeting.

Funding Request: FY2010 Budget Recommendations

J. O'Hare reported that the FY2010 budget recommendations would be presented by N. Olson. He indicated that FY2010 allocation priorities were reviewed and listed on the budget handout. He noted that GWB staff has been diligent in de-obligating grant funds and adding those funds back into the budget pool. N. Olson provided detailed information on the FY'10 initial funding recommendations and noted that the total FY2010 funding recommendations total more than \$12M.

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to endorse the funding categories as presented in the FY2010 funding recommendations.

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

Funding Request: Green Technology Industry Partnership

D. Francis provided an overview of the process and the technical review materials for the proposals submitted in response to the Industry Partnership Green Technologies RFP. He reported that the Technical Review team found that one proposal met the standards set forth in the RFP issued on February 9, 2009. The proposal was from the RI Green Technology Consortium (NEIT). D. Francis indicated the funding request for this proposal is in the amount of \$149,050.

Committee members discussed that funding this partnership was not the best use of GWB funds at this time. It was suggested that there was not enough substance around this effort and that with limited resources there should be more concrete and viable goals and objectives. It was suggested by committee members that this funding request be tabled noting that this RFP could be pursued in the future with more specific outcomes.

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to table this funding request.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous, the motion was tabled.

Funding Request: Workforce Expansion Grant

Vice Chair McGowan asked P. Harden of the RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to provide information on the funding request for the Workforce Expansion grant to Advanced Financial Services. P. Harden reported that this company is a financial services company and looking to hire 60 loan officers at an annual pay of \$25,000. He noted the headquarters is located in Middletown, RI.

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$77,280 to Advanced Financial Services, Inc.

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

Other Business

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney