

**Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting
December 7, 2009**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, William McGowan,
Brandon Melton, Martin Trueb, George Nee
GWB Staff present: Nancy Olson, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney
DLT Staff present: Lori Norris
Others Present: Deborah Anthes, RIDE; Roy Seitsinger, RIDE;
Paul Harden, RIEDC; Katherine Tufts, RIEDC

Call to Order

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda items.

Minutes of 11/09/09

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 11/09/09 for the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Strategic Investments Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

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

Budget Update

Chair MarcAurele asked Nancy Olson to present the budget update to the committee. N. Olson presented a comprehensive overview of the budget from FY06 through FY10. She detailed information on budget and expense items relating to workforce training grants, workforce expansion grants, industry partnership grants, the Industry Skills Development Initiative (ISDI); youth training funding; adult education and literacy and other awards approved by the GWB. She reported that the expenditures from 7/1/05 through 10/31/09 total more than \$44,022,000 and that the current balance available for programs is \$2,079,987. A handout of the PowerPoint presentation is part of the meeting packet.

Funding Request: Public Use Data Module Proposal \$100,000

Chair MarcAurele noted that at the May 2009 Adult Education and Literacy Committee meeting, George Nee requested that the RI Department of Education (RIDE) develop a web-enabled public information service that would provide Rhode Islanders with more information about adult education learning opportunities. Chair MarcAurele asked Deborah Anthes of RIDE to present this request for funding.

D. Anthes indicated that the estimated development and piloting costs are estimated to be \$100,000 and that this is a multi-phase 18-month implementation plan. Phase 1 would address class availability and sign up registration; Phase II the referral module; Phase III the public program profile and program accountability module; and the final phase student and staff portfolios.

A motion was entered to approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the Public Use Data Module proposal.

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

Funding Request: RI Export Management Training Grant Program \$100,000

Chair MarcAurele noted that the RI Export Management Training Grant Program is an ongoing program funded from the allocation to RI Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) for workforce expansion. He asked Katherine Tufts to present the funding request.

Katherine Tufts noted the success of the program and the positive feedback from grant recipients and asked for the continued support of the GWB. She reported on the FY2009 contract and indicated that 24 grants were issued for a total of 40 companies with 383 trainees. She mentioned that training covered a broad range of topics including export control training, international website development training, CE certification, country specific training and trade mission training. She reported that the \$100,000 in funding would support RI companies in individual matching grants for customized export training.

A motion was entered to approve funding in the amount of \$100,000 for the RI Export Management Training Grant Program.

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

Funding Request: Co-Investment Contextualized RFP \$600,000

Chair MarcAurele noted that the Department of Labor & Training (DLT) has partnered with the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education – Office of Adult and Career and Technical Education to develop and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a two-year capacity and demonstration project. He asked Lori Norris to provide further information on this funding request.

L. Norris indicated the purpose of the RFP is to expand contextualized education and training opportunities for low-skilled job seekers and incumbent workers tied to career pathways in nine critical and emerging sectors. She mentioned that the goal is to create partnership development between education, training providers and industry partnerships to create demand-driven curricula and instruction which will lead to education and industry recognized credentials. L. Norris noted that a major outcome is to have more options available for One Stop Career Center customers whose skills prevent them from accessing advanced training. She reported that funding will consist of up to \$2m in state set aside stimulus/formula funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). She indicated that the adult education RFP will set aside up to \$1.5m per year for 5 years of which year 1 and year 2 funding (totaling up to \$3 million) will be a direct co-investment and of which funding for the remaining 3 years will be used to sustain components of the programs to be created.

L. Norris indicated that the \$600,000 requested in Job Development funding would be added to the resources for the RFP to ensure that critical partnerships will be created between hub or focal point agencies responsible for referrals and assessment and 3-4 providers of education and training in the state.

A motion was entered to approve funding from the JDF in the amount of \$600,000 for the Co-Investment Contextualized RFP.

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

Business Retention

This agenda item was not discussed as J. O'Hare was not able to attend the meeting.

Other Business

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney