

Governor's Workforce Board RI
Strategic Investments Committee Meeting
April 8, 2010

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, William McGowan,
Brandon Melton, Martin Trueb, George Nee
GWB Staff present: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, Maureen Mooney, Dan Brown
DLT Staff present: Jenn Buck, Diane Gagne
Others Present: Roy Seitsinger, RIDE, Deb Anthes, RIDE, Dan Egan, AICU
Janet Raymond, Providence Chamber, Paul Harden,
RIEDC

Call to Order

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda items.

Minutes of 2/8/10

Chair MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of 2/8/10 for the Governor's Workforce Board (GWB) Strategic Investments Committee. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

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

Funding Request Adult Education FY 11

Chair MarcAurele asked Roy Seitsinger of RIDE to present the request for adult education funding for FY11. R. Seitsinger reported that the FY11 funding request was brought before the Adult Education Committee on March 23, 2010 and that funding was recommended in the amount of \$4,000,000, a \$500,000 reduction from FY10.

Chair MarcAurele asked R. Seitsinger to provide some of the highlights of adult education programs in the last few months. R. Seitsinger noted the recently released RFP defines significant final steps for adult education reform in RI. He noted this 5 year effort will position RI as a national leader in its offering of adult education programs. He acknowledged the challenges and that a key component of the RFP is the inclusion of a performance-based evaluation which will be tied to funding.

Deb Anthes noted that a key component in the RFP includes a rigorous adult secondary education component, which will provide students with assistance to obtain a GED and an opportunity to enter college without remediation. She described contextualized education as another component which focuses on high demand industry sectors in RI. She noted the need for services at the middle tier (grade 5-8 level) and for those adults who are either dislocated or in need of additional skills or education to succeed in the workforce. She indicated that making contextualized education a priority will better serve these individuals who will not only receive language literacy but will be able to continue their education. D. Anthes noted that distance learning and distance education are additional priority areas and offer a tool for those adults who need to be engaged. She also indicated the need to assist those individuals with learning disabilities. R. Seitsinger noted that his office, now known as the Office of Multiple Pathways, includes the career and technical centers, middle schools and high schools, virtual schools, charter schools, and adult education.

W. McGowan inquired about the specific items being funded for this request. D. Anthes indicated that the RFP responses are due on April 30th and that they would report back on the specifics.

With no further discussion, Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the FY 11 funding request.

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

Knowledge Retention Symposium Update

Chair MarcAurele asked Dan Egan, President of Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island (AICU) to provide an update on the symposium that was held in the fall of 2009.

D. Egan reported that the Knowledge Retention Symposium was held in the fall of 2009 and that it was a one-day summit designed to bring together members of academia, businesses, community leaders, government officials, labor experts, students and recent graduates to discuss and develop ideas and solutions on keeping graduates in Rhode Island. He discussed symposium objectives, key findings and conclusions. He presented a Post-Symposium Report, a handout on Bridge concepts and a publication entitled Edworks. All of the materials are available in the meeting packet. Janet Raymond of the Providence Chamber offered her comments and support of this initiative.

Incumbent Worker Training Grants FY 11

Chair MarcAurele asked N. Olson to present the funding request for the incumbent worker training grants.

N. Olson reported that the GWB received 144 proposals requesting a total of \$3.4M in funding, the most requests ever received for this grant program. 102 proposals scored 80 or above. She noted the spreadsheet in the meeting packet detailing the organizations that were funded and unfunded and that at this time the request for funding is for \$1M for 40 companies. Staff will continue to review and identify funds that are not being spent and they will be de-obligated. She emphasized that the strategy is to award funding closer to the training start date which would tie into the de-obligation process.

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the FY 11 funding request for the incumbent worker training grants.

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

Other Business

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney