

Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 26, 2008

Present: Paul Ouellette, Ray Pingitore, Diane Cook and from staff, Nick Ucci and Gail DuPont. Absent: Pat Talin and Peter Koch.

With a quorum present, Chair Paul Ouellette called the meeting to order at approximately 8:25 A.M. The minutes from the previous meeting on April 25, 2008 were reviewed but approval was postponed because the members present did not attending that meeting.

Board Vacancies

Paul Ouellette reviewed the five vacancies on the board. Paul asked if a resume is still required for appointment to the board as this could be a problem to candidates who have not updated their resume in a number of years. Nick stated a resume is preferred but maybe a bullet point synopsis might be acceptable to the governor. Paul stated he has

spoken with several candidates who have expressed interest in joining the board such as Joe Oakes of VR Industries, Jeff Swallow from Electric Boat, Victoria Gailliard-Garrick from Davies Career and Technical High School, and Keith Oliveira, Coordinator of Rhode Island Charter Schools. Nick addressed the Veterans position vacancy on the board. He said he spoke to DLT and learned the

Veterans position will be assumed by Kim Weiss, who is currently a board member. Nick continued that this would allow us to eliminate a partner position and a private sector position from the board to reduce the number of board members from 39 to 37 which is still in compliance with the by-laws.

Nick suggested someone from the IT community might be a good board member candidate. Paul mentioned Lighthouse Computer Services of Lincoln as a possibility. Paul Ouellette stated that Vanessa Cooley attendance at board meetings could be improved but she did attend the Youth Council meetings regularly. Betty Pleacher attendance at board meetings was good but she has not attended any Strategic Development Committee meetings. He will call Betty and suggest another committee might be better for her schedule.

VOTE: Paul motioned to recommend to the Executive Committee reducing the board size from 39 to 37 members. Diane Cook seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board and Committee Attendance

Paul mentioned according to the by-laws there is a three-strike rule on attendance. He mentioned that he is concerned about the attendance record of John Iaderosa from CVS.

Paul has spoken to John and was assured that his attendance would improve because his travel obligations were going to diminish. Another person of concern is Dorothy Mattiello who only attended one board meeting and one committee meeting. Paul will

have a conversation with Cheryl Merchant to see if someone else would be a better candidate for this board. Paul said we should mention at the next meeting that we do take attendance because a board is more effective when their members are active. Nick said he has discussed the Youth Council attendance with Chair Cynthia Farrell and it was agreed to closely monitor attendance for the next three to four months. Diane Cook suggested e-mailing the attendance reports to remind people how important it is to be present. Diane Cook announced that Ed Sneesby representative for the Department of Human Resources is retiring today and will be sending a resignation letter.

Board Education

Nick suggested more presentations be offered to the board during the meetings. For example the Two Million Minutes video shown in April was well received and provided an excellent opportunity for discussion. Ray Pingitore said he recently watched a PBS special on education in schools in both Rhode Island and nationally that would relate to what we are doing. Nick said he will try to obtain a copy of the tape. Paul said at the Workforce Innovations conference this summer, a big concern of business was the lack of soft skills in the workforce. He continued that another problem today is knowledge of financial literacy. Nick suggested that this would be a good time to have LMI speak about the state of the economy in Rhode Island. Paul suggested maybe an economist such as Paul Harrington or another video for example "Did You Know III" might be of interest. It was

agreed that Nick would contact LMI to speak in October and Paul would contact Paul Harrington, professor of economics at Northeastern University to speak in November. Paul suggested maybe a social gathering might be useful in getting board members to mingle more. Ray Pingitore agreed even if they introduced themselves at each meeting it would help to get to know them and what they do. Nick said January might be a good month to begin introductions. Nick stated that the IT and marine trade industry will be presenting to the Strategic Development committee in October and November and after the first of the year they will present to the full board.

VOTE: Paul Ouellette motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 A.M. Ray Pingitore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Board Development Committee is scheduled for October 31, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail DuPont
Administrative Assistant