

GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND
November 13, 2008 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBERS (*DENOTES ABSENT)

Mario Bueno	William McGowan	Sandra Powell
Mia Caetano Johnson	Brandon Melton	Lorna Ricci*
Armeather Gibbs	Sharon Moylan	Cathy Streker*
Saul Kaplan*	Robert Nangle	Martin Trueb*
Paul MacDonald*	George Nee	Jack Warner
Joseph MarcAurele		

GWB STAFF: John O'Hare, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Dan Brown, Maureen Mooney

DLT STAFF: Maureen Palumbo, Laura Hart, Mary Ellen McQueeny Lally, Lori Norris, Christine Grieco, David Tremblay, Connie Parks,

GUESTS: Malcom Baxter, United Way, Marguerite McLaughlin, Quality Partners of RI, Robert Ricci, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, Ruth Riccarelli, HARI, Fred Santaniello, NEIT, Gail Patry Quality Partners of RI, Ken Findlay, Department of Corrections, Linda Katz, Poverty Institute, David Cedrone, RIEDC, Jean Robertson, RIEDC,

LOCATION: Department of Labor & Training, conference room 73-1

Chairman's Comments

Chair MarcAurele called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He briefly commented on the current economic situation both locally and nationally and noted the effect of the downturn on the banking industry. Chair MarcAurele indicated the significant impact of the work of the GWB during this difficult economic time, particularly noting the upgrade of technology in the One Stop Centers.

Meeting Minutes

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve the Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes of 9/11/08.

VOTE on motion to approve: J. Warner moved to approve, seconded by R. Nangle. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve 2008 Governor's Workforce Board September 11, 2008 meeting minutes. All approved. September 11, 2008 meeting minutes approved.

Administrative Business

Chair MarcAurele provided a brief overview of the administrative business agenda items requiring a vote.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to accept the resignation letter of M. Koback from the position of Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Board. He noted the resignation letter was in the board meeting packet.

VOTE on motion to approve: A. Gibbs moved to approve, seconded by J. Warner. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to accept the resignation letter of M. Koback. All approved. Resignation letter of M. Koback accepted.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to accept the resignation letter of R. Paniccia from the Governor's Workforce Board. He noted the resignation letter was in the board meeting packet.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by R. Nangle. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to accept the resignation letter of R. Paniccia. All approved. Resignation letter of R. Paniccia accepted.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to appoint John J. O'Hare as Acting Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Board.

VOTE on motion to approve: J. Warner moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to appoint J. O'Hare as Acting Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Board. All approved. Appointment of John J. O'Hare as Acting Executive Director approved.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to provide signatory authority to both the Chair and to the Acting Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Board so that the business of the Board can continue. He noted this is an annual process as stated in the GWB by-laws.

VOTE on motion to approve: S. Moylan moved to approve, seconded by J. Warner. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to provide signatory authority to the GWB Chair and Acting Executive Director. All approved. Signatory authority for the GWB Chair and the Acting Executive Director approved.

Acting Executive Director's Report

J. O'Hare provided a brief report on two major projects of the GWB. He indicated he plans to present the JDF budget to the Strategic Investments committee on December 17, 2008. He noted the importance of maximizing the funds available, projecting the cash flow and getting the money on the street. J. O'Hare noted that the process for both the strategic plan and unified planning process is nearing completion and that the strategic plan should be in final form by January of 2009.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Advisory Council

Chair MarcAurele reported that in accordance with Chapter 28-42-37 that the HRIC should make recommendations of appointment by the Governor to this council. He asked J. O'Hare to provide an overview of why this is essential.

J. O'Hare reported that the function of the committee is defined by statute and serves two primary responsibilities. The first is to set the rate for employers to ensure that adequate funds are going into the trust fund. The other is to set the benefits for unemployment insurance.

Chair MarcAurele indicated there are two votes associated with the UI Advisory Council.

The first vote is to re-establish the UI Advisory Council. Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to re-establish this council.

VOTE on motion to approve: W. McGowan moved to approve, seconded by R. Nangle. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to re-establish the UI Advisory Council. All approved. Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council re-established.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to submit the recommendations for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Advisory Council to the Governor for consideration.

VOTE on motion to approve: J. Warner moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to submit recommendations for the UI Advisory Council to the Governor for consideration. All approved. Request to submit recommendations for the UI Advisory Council approved.

Re-allocation of Funds

Chair MarcAurele asked J. O'Hare to provide an overview of the agenda item relating to the reallocation of funds. J. O'Hare reported that the intent is to reallocate \$500,000 in funds that are not expended in the workforce expansion category to the workforce training category in preparation for the release of incumbent worker training grant funds for employers. He noted that currently there is approximately \$800,000 of funds in the workforce training category. The reallocation will bring the amount available in workforce training grants to \$1.3M. J. O'Hare noted that the GWB has more than \$400,000 in de-obligations from contracts that have concluded within the last 6 months. This money will be added to the workforce training category bringing the total availability to almost \$2M.

Chair MarcAurele noted the importance of sending a positive message to the community by reallocating these funds for training and indicated this was a good use of funds to assist both companies and employees. G. Nee agreed this was a positive message and a key funding goal of the GWB.

Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve the reallocation of funds unused in the workforce expansion category in the amount of \$500,000 to the workforce training category.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by J. Warner. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve the reallocation of funds. All approved. Reallocation of funds to the workforce training category approved.

Committee Reports

Chair MarcAurele asked committee chairs for reports.

Adult Education and Literacy Committee

J. Warner reported that the Adult Education and Literacy Committee have been reviewing recommendations of the Governor's task force. He indicated that many of these recommendations have been implemented and have had positive effects on the quality of delivery of services. He noted the current challenge is to increase capacity to serve more people since there is still a large unmet need for adult literacy in RI.

Youth Development Committee (YDC)

B. Melton reported that the RFP for 2009 Statewide Youth Workforce Services is posted. L. Norris reported that the bidder's conference is November 14, 2008 and that the RFP is posted on the websites of the Workforce Partnership of Greater RI (WPGRI) and the Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston (WSPC). B. Melton reported that the YDC has been working on workforce readiness skills and competencies. L. Norris reported that there will be a presentation at the next YDC meeting on the Cranston School system pilot project. She indicated that initial results are very positive.

Planning and Evaluation Committee

W. McGowan reported that work is progressing on the strategic plan after many meetings of the Planning and Evaluation committee and others. He emphasized the positive outcomes of the strategic planning process and noted the inclusiveness of the participants. He provided a brief overview of the remaining meetings and noted that the public hearing will occur in January or February.

Consent Agenda

Vice Chair McGowan reviewed the items contained on the Consent Agenda. He asked for any discussion. Hearing none, Chair MarcAurele requested a motion to approve items 1-6 of the Consent Agenda.

VOTE on motion to approve: G. Nee moved to approve, seconded by S. Moylan. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

VOTE to approve Items 1-6 of the Consent Agenda. All approved. Consent agenda items 1-6 approved.

Adjournment

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

VOTE on motion to approve: M. Caetano-Johnson moved to approve, seconded by S. Powell. All approved. Motion to adjourn passes.

VOTE to approve adjournment of Governor's Workforce Board meeting. All approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen F. Mooney