

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RHODE ISLAND**  
**September 17, 2009 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

**BOARD MEMBERS (\*DENOTES ABSENCE)**

Mario Bueno	William McGowan	Sandra Powell
Mia Caetano Johnson*	Steven Maurano	Lorna Ricci*
Robin Coia	Brandon Melton	Cathy Streker*
Armeather Gibbs*	Sharon Moylan	Martin Trueb
Joseph MarcAurele*	Robert Nangle	
Paul MacDonald	George Nee	

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

**DLT STAFF:** Laura Hart, Mary Ellen McQueeney-Lally, David Tremblay, Donna Treglia, Jen Buck

**GUESTS:** Malcolm Baxter, United Way, Ruth Ricciarelli, HARI, Ray Choiniere, RI House Policy Office, Judy Jones, Poverty Institute, Marguerite McLaughlin & Gail Patry, Quality Partners, Robert Ricci, Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston, Paul Harden, RIEDC, Johan Uvin, RI Department of Education, Kathy McKeon, Diocese of Providence, Jill Holloway, Adult Education Professional Development Center.

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

**Vice Chairman's Comments**

Vice Chair William McGowan called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He mentioned that GWB, DLT and local workforce investment board (LWIB) staff worked hard over the summer and that a primary focus was to ensure the receipt and expenditure of stimulus funds for the summer youth program. He commented that these funds were utilized efficiently and effectively due to several initiatives the GWB already put in place.

Vice Chair McGowan welcomed new board member, Robin Coia to the board. He noted she was appointed by the Governor to the board replacing Bob Paniccia, and represents labor. He also welcomed Steven Maurano who replaces Jack Warner. Steven is the Interim Commissioner for the Office of Higher Education.

**Meeting Minutes**

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes from the annual meeting held on June 18, 2009.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** R. Nangle moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve June 18, 2009 Governor's Workforce Board meeting minutes. All approved. June 18, 2009 meeting minutes approved.

## **Acting Executive Director's Report**

Vice Chair McGowan turned the meeting over to John J. O'Hare for the Executive Director's report.

J. O'Hare reported that due to stimulus funding an additional 1700 youth worked over the summer, bringing the total number of youth in the system to 10,000. R. Ricci mentioned that the utilization of JDF funding assisted in the building of the statewide system, providing an infrastructure for the LWIBs to secure these funds. He indicated that the funding became available in February and that guidance was issued in March. An RFP was released and the summer programs began in June. He commented that many LWIBs nationally were unable to get a summer program up and running in time to utilize the funds.

J. O'Hare mentioned the expansion of the World of Work (WOW) program from the Cranston school system to school systems in Lincoln, Newport and Exeter. He noted the goal is to have similar programs throughout various school systems in the state. M. Trueb commented there were encouraging results from the WOW program on overall school performance and that these results were instrumental in the programs success.

Director Powell mentioned that she recently met with Commissioner Deborah Gist who has a strong interest in the work of the GWB and the integration of workforce development into the K-12 curriculum.

J. O'Hare reported that the Employment Security Advisory Committee (ESAC) will be meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Director Powell stated that the ESAC by law is a subcommittee of the GWB and includes P. MacDonald and W. McGowan from the GWB as well as the chairs of Senate and Labor. Director Powell indicated that this committee will be discussing a number of issues surrounding the Unemployment Insurance program including statutory changes.

J. O'Hare mentioned the recent awarding of an industry partnership grant by the Strategic Investments Committee to New England Tech to establish a green partnership. He indicated there are now 9 sector initiatives in the state.

J. O'Hare reported that the board entertained a proposal for a challenge grant to establish a virtual academy and asked J. Uvin to provide further detail. J. Uvin stated that the idea is critical that all Rhode Islanders develop skills to become more competitive in the workplace. He indicated that through this challenge grant statewide efficiencies can be realized through an interagency investment and agreement to jointly begin the development of this statewide online learning network. This agreement could include leveraged investments from the Office of Higher Education, RIDE, and DHS. Jointly, these resources could make available approximately 120,000 licenses to be given to adult education participants on waiting lists, One Stop Career Center customers, and students in developmental learning courses at postsecondary education and training institutions

J. O'Hare mentioned that the Delegated Contract Authority that was authorized by the Department of Administration (DOA) would address the issue of timeliness of training dollars for incumbent worker training to industry. He explained that currently RFP's were released on an annual basis, sometimes twice per year. GWB staff will be preparing to address the release of grant funds on an ongoing basis and will bring this proposed process to the Strategic Investments Committee once it is developed. J. O'Hare noted that the Delegated Contract Authority will have to be renewed in January before implementing this process.

### **Consent Agenda (Items 1-4)**

Vice Chair McGowan reported that board members received the consent agenda for their review. He indicated that all of the items on the consent agenda have been presented to the appropriate committees and are recommended for approval to the Board.

Vice Chair McGowan requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

**VOTE on motion to approve:** B. Melton moved to approve, seconded by G. Nee. All approved. Motion to vote passes.

**VOTE** to approve the Consent Agenda. All approved. Consent Agenda approved.

### **Committee Report Updates**

Vice Chair McGowan asked committee chairs for any updates. B. Melton commented that the work done by DLT staff resulted in a youth system that was positioned to respond to the additional services under the ARRA for summer youth programs. He noted this was accomplished under the leadership of Lori Norris, Maureen Palumbo and the LWIBs.

Vice Chair McGowan noted the good work of the Board Development committee and the successful annual meeting held in June. S. Moylan indicated that the annual review of the by-laws and the planning of the next annual meeting would be upcoming agenda items for this committee.

S. Maurano reported that the Adult Ed & Literacy committee would be meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup> and that he was working with J. Uvin on the agenda for that meeting.

Vice Chair McGowan noted that the Planning and Evaluation committee met on September 1<sup>st</sup> and reviewed several WIN notices and received an update on the Strategic Workforce Plan. D. Tremblay provided an overview of the ARRA high growth grant and the ARRA Competitive grant.

### **Other Business**

With no further business, Vice Chair McGowan 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 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney